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**Area's sports awards
shortlist announced**

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**Pinpoint gets £5k
cash injection**

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**Win Home Improvement
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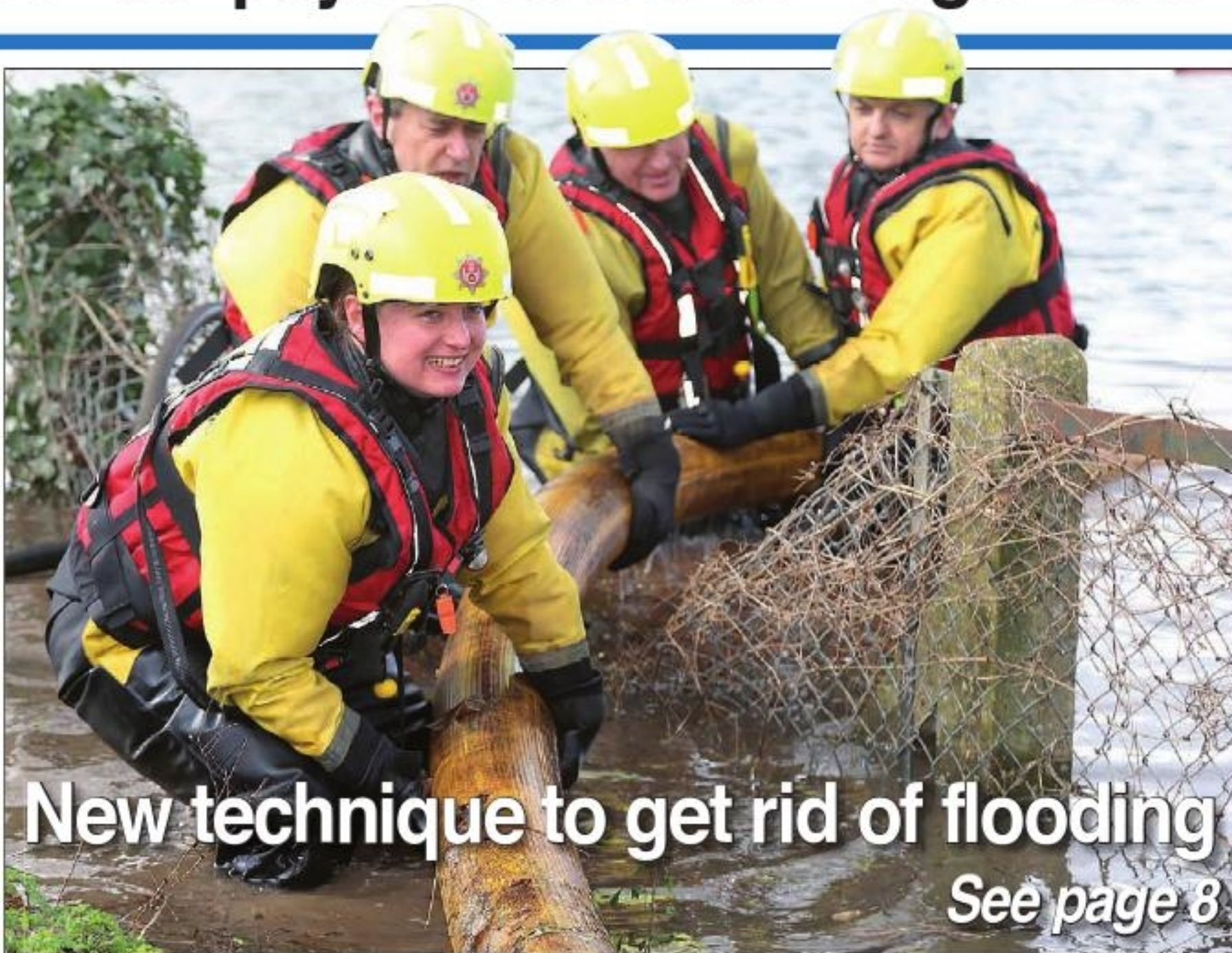
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A TEENAGER REMEMBERED

School pays tribute after 'tragic' death of 15-year-old Jack



New technique to get rid of flooding
See page 8

A TEENAGER has died after being hit by a lorry in Hartley Wintney on Monday afternoon.

Jack Brown, 15, from Frimley, Surrey, was pronounced dead after being taken to hospital.

Police were called out to the incident just after midday when the white Volvo lorry was travelling northbound on the A30 at Hartford Bridge.

Two men were in the lorry at the time - they have not been arrested, and are being treated as witnesses.

Both men are in their 30s. They were not injured, but were left shaken by the incident.

No other vehicles were involved. The area of the road where the accident occurred was closed for three hours while officers examined the scene.

Jack was a student at Tomlin-scote School in Frimley, which released a statement about his death on Tuesday.

It read: "The school is sad to confirm the deeply upsetting news that one of our students, Jack Brown, was tragically killed in a road traffic collision (on Monday).

"Our thoughts and prayers are

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

with his family and friends at this most difficult of times."

Officers are investigating the cause of the incident, and are appealing for anyone with information to come forward.

Investigating officer Acting Sergeant Martin Mundy of Hampshire Constabulary's Roads Policing Unit (RPU) said: "We're most grateful to all the emergency services and members of the public who provided assistance and first aid in the aftermath of this collision."

"I'd also like to thank motorists and pedestrians for their patience and understanding while part of the A30 was closed for around three hours during a forensic examination of the collision scene."

"We're continuing to appeal for more witnesses who may have seen the collision or the events immediately before the impact between the lorry and the pedestrian."

Witnesses or anyone with information are asked to contact the Roads Policing Unit at Whitechurch by phoning 101 and quoting Operation Bandrake, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



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'95 per cent' get top school choice

OVER 95 per cent of children in Hampshire have been offered a place at their first preference secondary school, the county council has announced.

It means that 12,098 out of 12,702 applications to a preferred secondary school were successful, with 99.2 per cent given a place at one of their top three schools.

However, this is slightly lower than last year's statistics, when 96.2 per cent of children secured a place at their preferred school, and 99.5 per cent got a place in their top three.

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Applications are processed by the county council, and the news comes after the budget was agreed that includes almost £150million of investment to create thousands of new places in the next three years.

Cllr Peter Edgar, Hampshire County Council's executive member for education, said: "Once again we have been able to offer a high number of pupils a place at their preferred secondary school and that's great news."

"I understand there will be

some disappointment for the few parents who did not secure a place at one of their chosen schools.

"But this is a very small number, with just 107 out of nearly 13,000 pupils across the county [not getting a top-three choice].

"There are always individual schools that experience exceptionally high demand, and I see this as a credit to the high standard of teaching at these schools."

Pupils whose application to their preferred schools was unsuccessful will be allocated a place at their nearest available school.

Parents have the right to

appeal and can put their child's name on the waiting list if a place does become available.

The admissions team is now processing applications for primary school places, with offers due to be sent out on April 16.

Cllr Edgar added: "Demand for primary school places is growing, along with the rising population, and Hampshire County Council is working hard to increase capacity at primary schools in areas where demand is highest."

"With the recent to invest some £149million in primary school infrastructure by 2017, we can continue to work towards our objective to provide quality education locally."

Old clothes wanted for air ambulance

HAMPSHIRE and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance is asking residents to consider using yellow clothing banks when it comes to recycling clothes, as the garments will help raise money for the charity.

The air ambulance is working with recycling partner Bag It Up Ltd, who collect unwanted shoes and textiles and convert them into money for the service.

Even worn-out shoes and damaged clothes can be used, so the charity is asking residents to recycle rather than throw away.

An increasing number of yellow textile banks are being installed across Hampshire, including at Inkinit in Basingstoke and at Chineham Church.

John Perry, chief executive of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, said: "We would like to remind people that supporting your air ambulance can be achieved in many ways."

"Just by choosing to use our textile banks to recycle your clothing is a great place to start."

The air ambulance relies on public donations in order to continue to operate, and needs in excess of £125,000 every month.

Since July 2007, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance has flown nearly 5,000 missions, and flies an average of two or three times a day.

For more details, go to www.hiow-airambulance.org.uk.

Children's charity in 15th anniversary celebrations

A BASINGSTOKE charity dedicated to changing the lives of children in India and Bangladesh is celebrating its 15th anniversary this month.

Mark and Julie Thomas set up Child's Trust in 1999 after the memory of a trip there changed their lives.

A woman living in poverty on the streets offered the couple her baby to be cared for, an image that prompted them to try and make a difference.

Now, the charity directly supports around 150 children by making contributions in the form of food, water, shelter and education.

They estimate that it has impacted on 1,000 children's lives in India (where the charity currently runs six projects) and, more recently, Bangladesh (two). They are holding a special exhibition at Buckskin Evangelical Church on March 22 for people to find out about the charity and the work it does.

Child's Trust are now pioneering a scheme called 'House of Hope'. The scheme supports a small family to take in and adopt up to 10 orphans (who have no relatives to care for them) and raise them as their

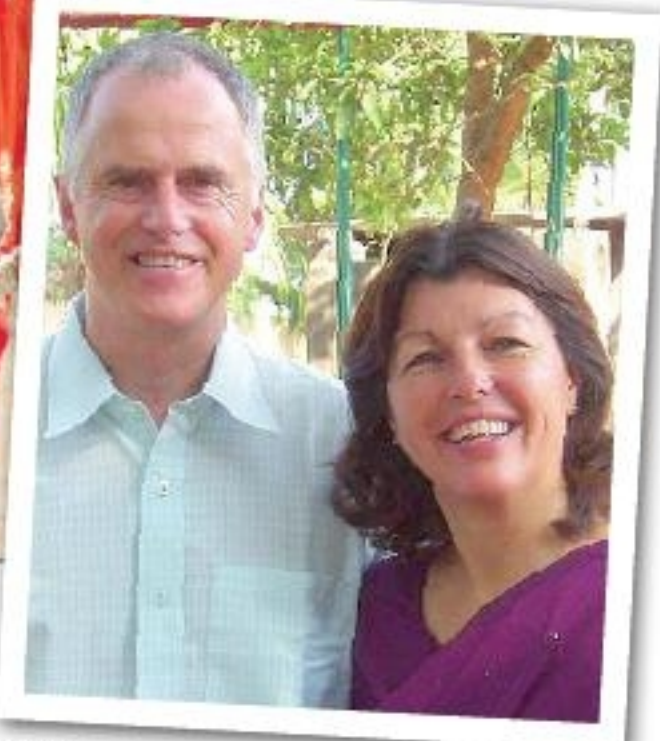


* Children helped by the House of Hope project and (Inset) Mark and Julie Thomas

own. The event in Buckskin includes an exhibition of Indian artefacts, a presentation from

the charity founders and Indian snack and English desserts. Call the CT office on 01256 324328 if you would like to

attend, or for more information go to www.childstrust.org.uk.



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Forsythia Walk
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Tel: Liz 07771 346702

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Raven Road
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Tel: Jo 07515 719190

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Kenilworth Road
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Tel: Tina 07810 147400

South Ham
Westside Community Centre
Paddock Road
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Tel: Kirsty 07843 276953

Overton
St Luke's Hall, Winchester Street
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Tel: Lynn 07885 765341

Bramley
Bramley Village hall, The Street
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Tel: Kate 07853 989168

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The Harrow Way
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Tel: Carol 07976 701459

Tadley
Ambrose Allen Centre,
Franklin Avenue
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Emma 07795 065042

Popley
Melrose Hall, Abbey Road
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Tel: Hazel 07796 158098
"Kids Corner - Children Welcome"

Popley
Melrose Hall, Abbey Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Hazel 07796 158098

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'Stoke's celebs get down and doodling!

Area's sports awards shortlist announced

FIFTY-FOUR nominees have been shortlisted for this year's Hampshire and Isle of Wight Sports Awards, including 12 from Basingstoke.

Over 200 athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, teams and clubs were put forward for an award, before being whittled down to the 54 remaining contenders.

Those up for awards from Basingstoke include 14-year-

old ice skater Danielle Harrison, who recently travelled to Sarajevo to perform at Torvill and Dean's 30th anniversary show.

She and athletics star Kierra Barker have been nominated for the Junior Sportswoman award, while Basingstoke Gymnastics Club will be hoping to win in the Club of the Year category.

Alice Weaving is a nominee for Junior Volunteer, and karate experts Lindsey Andrews and Mark Nevola are up for the Master Sportsman award.

Rachel Hessom has been nominated for Outstanding Personal Achievement, with Andrea Marritt being featured in the Participation Coach category.

Anne Bidmead and Bryan Andrews are both up for the Performance Coach award, while Lynn Brastock is nominated for Senior Volunteer and Brian Donegan for Service to Sport for his work in gymnastics.

The winners will be announced at a ceremony at Southampton's St Mary's Stadium on April 2.

BASINGSTOKE actors Ian McNeice and Sam Attwater are among a number of famous faces taking part in this year's National Doodle Day, to raise money for national charity Epilepsy Action.

Their sketches will be auctioned on eBay tomorrow, along with drawings from other luminaries including Sir Michael Parkinson, Bill Nighy and Jackie Collins, to help support 13,000 people across Hampshire with epilepsy.

National Doodle Day, supported by publishers Dodo Pad, aim to get as many people doodling as possible to help raise awareness for the condition.

Philippa Cartwright, fundraising events manager at Epilepsy Action, said: "Every year we are overwhelmed with the positive support that we receive from celebrities and members of the public alike."

"The celebrity doodle auction is always a terrific success, raising thousands of pounds in much-needed funds for Epilepsy Action."

"The highest-grossing doodle ever raised £1,600 alone, so this event really does make a huge difference to people

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

with epilepsy and their families." National Doodle Day first began 11 years ago, and over 1,200 celebrities, including Mary Berry, Rita Ora and Sophie Dahl, have taken part since then.

Members of the public can also help by creating their own masterpiece and donating a pound to Epilepsy Action.

A number of prizes are on offer, including arts and crafts vouchers and custom-made 3D doodles.

Around one in every 100 people in the UK are affected by epilepsy, and 87 people are diagnosed every day. More information about the charity can be found at www.epilepsy.org.uk, or to find out more about National Doodle Day, go to www.nationaldoodleday.org.uk

Do you have a story to share with our readers?

Contact the Newsdesk on 01235 516930

or email news@basingstoke-observer.co.uk

News Bites

It's X-citing!

BORDON'S Country Market is inviting residents to submit entries for its X-citing Future campaign, which will see a time capsule buried this summer following the launch of its new store. People are being asked to send in photographs, artwork and even personal aspirations to be buried in the capsule for 20 years, to include personal memories about living in Bordon.

Bailed after raids

THREE people are on bail after police discovered cannabis growing equipment in two homes in Basingstoke.

Officers raided houses in Copland Close, Brighton Hill (February 28) and Pershore Road, Popley (March 1).

A 21-year-old man and a 33-year-old woman were arrested at the Brighton Hill property on suspicion of producing a class B drug.

A 55-year-old man was detained after the Popley raid on suspicion of possession of class A drug, and possession with intent to supply and production of a class B drug.

Cut free from car

A 72-YEAR-OLD woman was cut from her car by fire crews after the vehicle fell onto its side in Chineham.

Teams from Basingstoke and Rushmoor fire stations went to help the pensioner, who crashed near a property in Saffron Close on Monday.

Crews cut out the car's panoramic sunroof to help the woman. It is believed she hit the curb at low speed before the car toppled over.



• Last year's winners at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Sports Awards

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FASTFIT Service Centre is celebrating its tenth anniversary at Unit One, Moniton Trading Estate in West Ham Lane.

And the independent automotive specialist is proud to be expanding in a bid to give its customers exactly what they want. "Everything your car needs is here under one roof", explained manager Byron Lewis who, like his team of experts, has spent a lifetime in the automotive industry.

He added: At Fastfit we offer hourly rates which are some of the best in Basingstoke. No job is beyond us and we are quite simply a one-stop shop and more besides. Whether it's an entire engine overhaul or just tweaking the brakes, we will do it, and do it well."

The business is continually expanding and includes a new mobile tyre fitting and home start service. A comprehensive diagnostic service can also be provided and the business issues many dealer level tools ranging

from Ford, Jaguar to Land Rover and Volkswagen.

Fastfit offers everything from MOTs and minor servicing to major repairs and complex engine work.

More complex issues include an Engine Control Unit (ECU) remapping service which makes the vehicle more responsive and smoother to driver. In these tough time, it also slightly increases the miles-per-gallon!

Fastfit Service Centre also stocks a range of budget or performance tyres and it can also custom build stainless steel exhaust systems.

"Come and give us a try. You won't be disappointed," concluded Byron.



What our customers think

• My car had been taken to three different repair centres which was suffering from low power none of them diagnosed the problem. I took it to these guys for a remap and full exhaust in the hopes it would fix it. It was better but Byron still thought it wasn't right so spent another couple of hours diagnosing it!

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Cheers,
Clive Baldwin

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Chris H

• Excellent service! Very polite and great value for money prices! I will recommend to friends and family. If you need your car repaired at the right price don't look any further.

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BDBC freezes tax in borough for fifth year

Alton gets regular mobile chemotherapy unit



The mobile chemotherapy unit will now be at Alton on a regular basis

A MOBILE chemotherapy unit will regularly visit Alton from today, after a series of sporadic visits over the last two years.

The unit is a joint project between cancer charity Hope for Tomorrow and the county's health trust.

Now, the £260,000 vehicle, which can deliver up to 3,000 treatments per year, will be a regular feature at The Maltings Centre.

The unit, launched in August 2012, is named Amy after the

great-great-granddaughter of Lord March.

It is owned and maintained by the charity and operated by the Foundation Trust.

Hampshire Hospitals chief executive Mary Edwards said: "We are very grateful to Hope for Tomorrow for providing the Hampshire Hospitals Mobile Chemotherapy Unit and helping us expand the service and care we can offer to patients and their families."

"The unit allows patients to receive their chemotherapy closer to home and helps us in achieving our goal to provide excellent patient care locally where possible and central where necessary."

"We have established that there are patients who will be appropriate to use the unit in Alton instead of needing to travel to our hospitals and we are extremely pleased to be able to provide this service in a further location."

BASINGSTOKE and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) has frozen council tax in the borough for the fifth year running, it announced in its budget proposals last week.

This keeps the cost of Band D property tax at £104, the lowest in the county.

The public realm in central Basingstoke is to receive £3.7million, while the authority will introduce free parking to areas of Top of the Town, and has created an economic development reserve of £750,000.

BDBC has also pledged to inject £500,000 into promoting Basingstoke as a business destination, while a further £250,000 is being used for rural development schemes.

Speaking at the BDBC budget meeting on February 27, council leader Clive Sanders reiterated the importance of leisure facilities in the borough.

Cllr Sanders pledged that the serving administration will continue to back and maintain these facilities for residents in the borough.

"A thriving local economy both in Basingstoke and across the borough is vital to improve the quality of life for residents," said Cllr Sanders.

"Creating more jobs for local people is key to the future delivery of the facilities we want;

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk



Council leader Clive Sanders

transport, shopping, sport, leisure and entertainment.

"The facilities that make a real difference to the daily lives of our residents."

"This budget balances the need to deal compassionately with today's problems with the need to forge a long term future for the borough based on ambition and a determination to succeed."

"It delivers on our promise to offer all our ordinary hard working residents a place to call home with a bright, exciting future for themselves and for their children. A future of lower bills, more jobs and better facilities."

Brothers are spared jail after neglect of ponies

TWO men have been spared jail by Basingstoke magistrates after causing unnecessary suffering to two Shetland ponies.

Brothers Matthew and David Twigg, from Andover, admitted the charges after RSPCA inspectors called on their property following a tip-off about the ponies' welfare.

The two ponies, 25-year-old Merlin and 15-year-old Hobby, could not walk due to their hooves being so severely overgrown.

Basingstoke Magistrates' Court was told that X-rays in both animals later showed that the pedal bone in each of their feet had started to disintegrate due to chronic laminitis.

Both were put to sleep to end their suffering.

RSPCA inspector Will Hendry said: "The situation for the ponies when we got to their stable was hopeless."

"They had been suffering chronically for up to five years and yet nobody, either within the family or without, thought to get them any help or pain relief."

Matthew, 56, was given a custodial sentence of five weeks suspended for 12 months.

David, 47, was ordered to do 65 hours of unpaid work after pleading guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to the ponies.

They were also ordered to pay £2,726.94 in court costs.

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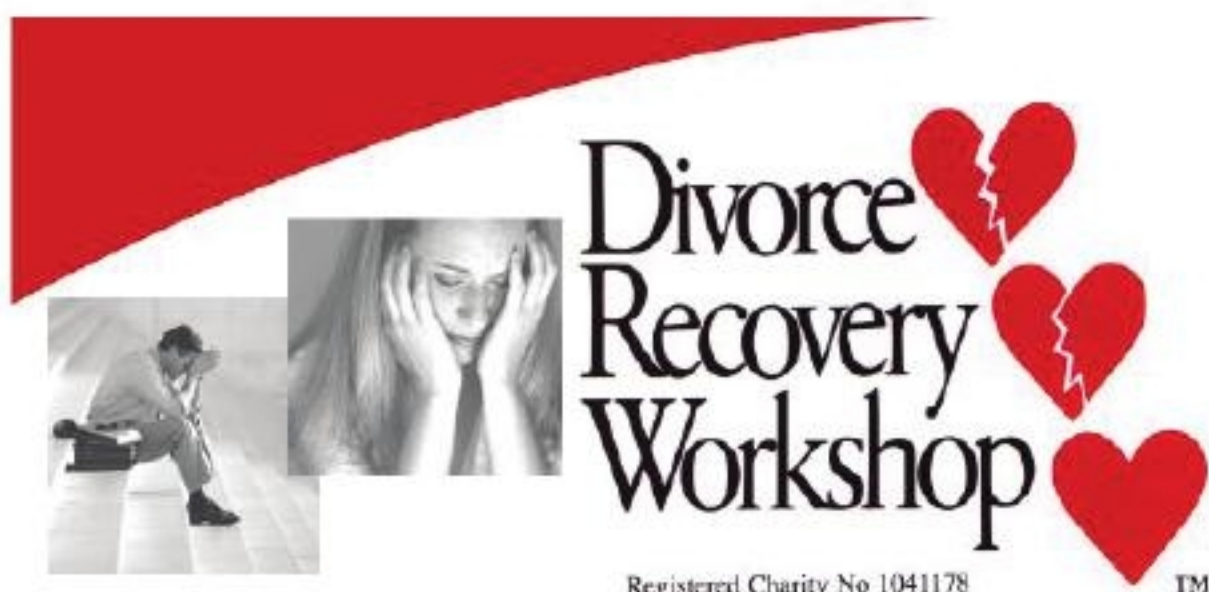
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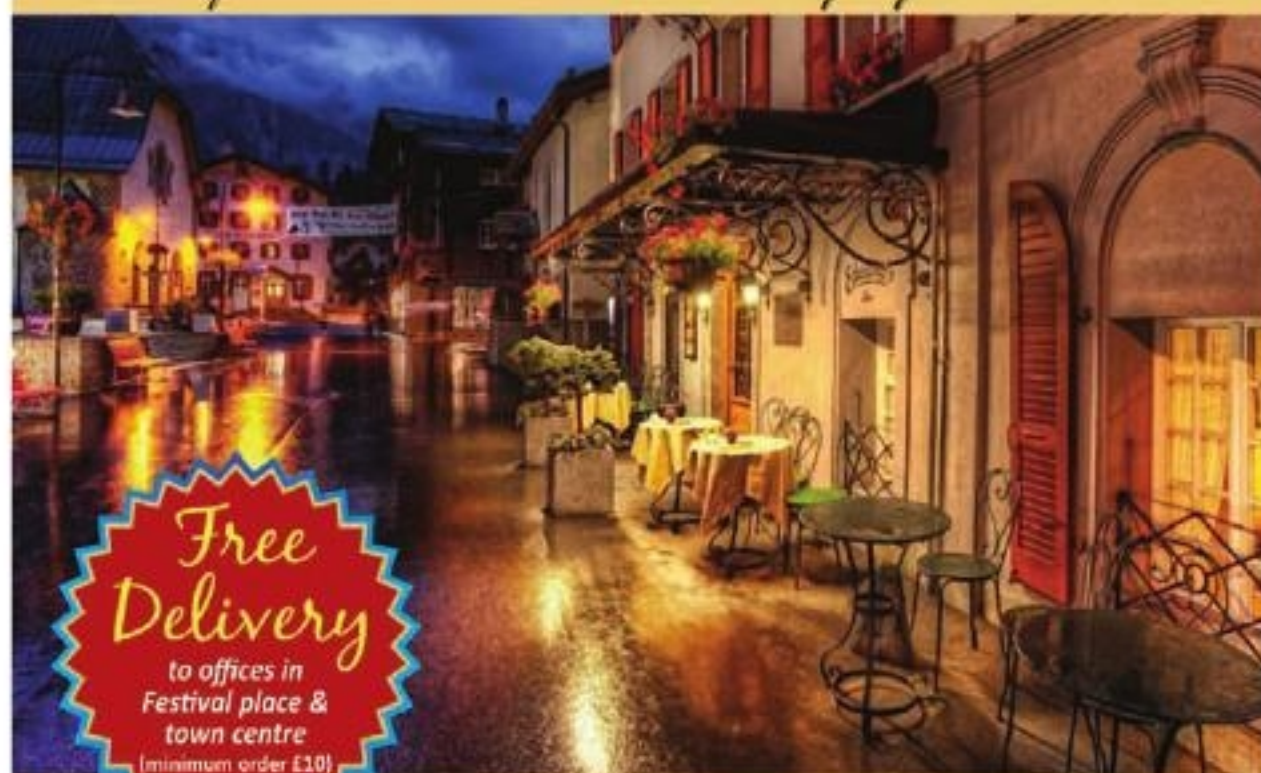
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Pinpoint gets £5k injection



• Holly Hall, radiotherapy service manager at Basingstoke Hospital, Tricia Monro, fund manager for the North Hampshire Medical Fund, and AWE Scientist Dr Allison Baxter

NORTH Hampshire Medical Fund has welcomed a £5k boost to its Pinpoint Appeal from AWE towards funds for breakthrough radiotherapy equipment.

Cancer survivor and AWE scientist, Dr Alison Baxter recommended that AWE give to the Pinpoint Appeal, which has been tasked with raising £450,000 for a state-of-the-art CT scanner for the new £5million radiotherapy unit at Basingstoke Hospital.

Alison was diagnosed with grade three breast cancer in November 2012.

After having a lump removed she began chemotherapy and subsequently radiotherapy.

However, because there was no radiotherapy provision at her local hospital in Basingstoke, Alison was forced to make the daily trip to Southampton for four weeks where she received the care she needed.

Alison said: "Travelling to Southampton for radiotherapy treatment was time-consuming, tiring and expensive. But it could have been much worse. I was lucky enough to not rely on public transport.

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

"It was for this reason me and my friends decided that in 2013 we would raise money for the North Hampshire Medical Fund Pinpoint appeal.

"After my treatment finished in mid-August I started to fundraise with my friends and family, taking on a sponsored bike ride, making cakes, biscuits and pickles, doing a Christmas raffle, and getting money from a swear box.

"In all we have raised around £2,000, but money is still coming in. I was delighted that AWE decided to embrace my passion for this charity and donate £5k to the new scanner.

"For local Basingstoke residents this unit will make so much difference to their cancer treatment.

"It will reduce the stress of travelling for treatment at what can be an incredibly stressful time."

The new radiotherapy unit will open in the grounds of the Basing-

stoke hospital in spring.

The unit enables radiotherapy to be delivered with pinpoint accuracy, so that the treatment, side-effects and peripheral damage to organs and tissues will be significantly reduced.

Tricia Monro, fund manager for the North Hampshire Medical Fund said: "The contribution of £5,000 from AWE has been critical in getting us to the finishing line for our Pinpoint Appeal. We are immensely grateful to Alison Baxter for nominating the Medical Fund.

"It will make a huge difference to many in our community."

News Bites

Witness appeal

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a roof rack was stolen from a Ford Transit van overnight on Monday, February 24.

The van had been left in a parking area on Normanton Road in Basingstoke.

Police are asking if anyone in the area saw any suspicious activity or vehicles during the time of the crime.

Call 101 or Crimestoppers with any information.

Sex charges

DETECTIVES in Basingstoke have charged a man in connection with sexual offences allegedly taking place the early 1990s.

The 46-year-old from Basingstoke has been charged with rape and indecent assault.

He will appear at Winchester Crown Court on March 19.

Appeal after theft

POLICE are appealing for witnesses following a burglary in Basingstoke.

Offenders broke into the house on Allen Close last Monday (February 24), and stole a gold necklace and silver Macbook Pro laptop.

The incident took place between 5.55pm and 10pm. Contact PC Craig Bannerman at Basingstoke police station on 101.

County's services unite in pioneering agreement 'H3'

A PIONEERING deal will see the county council, fire service and police combine their services in order to save millions of pounds.

The public partnership, called H3, first came into effect on February 1, and will be equally governed by all three organisations.

It is hoped the arrangement, the first of its type in England, will save £4million per year, with powers being phased in until November.

Simon Hayes, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, said: "H3 will deliver key support to three of the county's largest public bodies.

"With continued pressures on public finances, we have to work together to find new ways of operating, and this programme aims to deliver the best value corporate services to Hampshire's communities, in a modern, efficient and

effective way.

As part of the collaboration, an Integrated Business Centre (IBC), to deliver HR, procurement, finance and payroll functions, is already being implemented. Other initiatives to combine the other services are also underway.

Councillor Roy Perry, leader of Hampshire County Council, said: "We are transforming and modernising the way we work to find new ways of delivering more with less, while locking in quality and greater value for money.

Royston Smith, Chairman of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority, added: "By reducing the cost of delivering our combined support functions, not only will we increase our flexibility and protect local services, but we will also be able to improve the quality of those services for the residents."

News Bites

New chopper

HAMPSHIRE and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance (HIO-WAA) have begun preparing their new helicopter for deployment from June, with the start of branding and conversion work.

The enhanced model of the Eurocopter 135 will come into service later this year, although the branding will be slightly different to what has been used before.

Tony Nicholson, chairman of HIOWAA, said: "The trustees are committed to a path of continuous development and this move is the next step."

"Everything that helps our crews to deliver this vital service has to be good news for all those who depend on us."

Do you have that lucky feeling?

ST Michael's Hospice has announced the winners of its lottery draw from February 28.

First prize of £1,000 goes to ticket number 85773 of Basingstoke, while second prize of £100 is awarded to 79207 of Tadley.

Basingstoke ticket holder 58241 takes home third prize of £50, while the fourth prize of £20 was won by 70608 of Popley.

Sixteen prizes of £5 were given to tickets 04480, 14962, 17545, 20973, 22813, 23526, 24358, 29257, 33610, 38453, 49882, 54551, 58466, 62337, 68376 and 71715.

Find us on Twitter
@BasingstokeNews

Fresh efforts to banish the floods

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

A TRIAL is underway on an innovative pumping scheme that could help reduce flood water in Basingstoke.

The pumping plan has been developed by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC), Hampshire Fire and Rescue, the Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council, as the first phase of a scheme that could reduce flood water in Buckskin.

Work began last week to trial pumping the ground water from around the West Ham electricity substation on Worting Road.

The fire service's high volume pump will drain flood water from around the substation, taking it along over one kilometre of hose to the River Loddon.

One of the pumps can move 7,000 litres of water per minute, and such machines have been deployed around the country to help relieve flood-hit areas.

The Environment Agency has given the go-ahead to the scheme after looking at the existing water flows in the river.

Water levels will be continuously monitored during the trial to ensure that pumping can be stopped if there is any risk of the



• The pioneering pumping scheme is being carried out in Buckskin

river overtopping its banks.

If this trial is successful, it is possible a similar approach can be used to try to remove the water from the flooded areas of Buckskin, where 80 houses had to be evacuated.

However, it would be more complicated as it would be necessary to filter the water and set up a series of pipes and high volume pumps.

Experts have predicted that given the high level of the water

table in the area, doing nothing could mean that water levels might not go down until around April.

The council's chief executive Tony Curtis said: "We have committed to doing everything we can to help people in Buckskin who are living in appalling conditions or have been forced to leave their houses and live in temporary accommodation."

"The water will not go down by itself as the water table is so high

and the ground is saturated.

"Tankering the water away is only having a limited benefit. We hope that the trial will be successful so that we can look at how it could be used to help give the residents more hope of the water levels going down in the near future."

Council leader Cllr Clive Sanders said he has "every admiration for the resilience and fortitude of the people of Buckskin".

Mystery man wanted by 'Stoke police



• Have you seen him?

BASINGSTOKE police are investigating after a man walked into another person's house, before leaving without a word after being challenged.

Between 4.15pm and 4.30pm on February 14, a man was disturbed in his Culver Road home by the stranger that walked in. Nothing was taken during the incident.

The man, in his late 20s or early 30s and was wearing a white baseball cap, left the house when the victim spoke to him.

Anyone with any information or who may have been in the area at the time is asked to get in touch with PC Hall at Basingstoke police station on 101 or via the website www.hampshire.police.uk

You can also call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, while minicom users should call 01962 875000.



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www.funeralcare.co.uk

Council wants to 'cut the cost of politics'

BASINGSTOKE and Deane Borough Council have announced plans to ask the public about 'cutting the cost of politics'.

The Conservative-run council said it wanted to consult with the borough's residents about changing the format of local elections. Instead of the current format of a third of members up for election three out of four years, all councillors would be elected once every four years.

BDBC council leader, Councillor Clive Sanders, feels this would result in a significant money-saver for the borough's tax payers.

"It is all very well to talk about saving tax payers money but so far we have missed an obvious saving; tackling the cost of politics," said Cllr Sanders.

"We need to listen to the views of our residents and ask if they believe, like we do, that we should be cutting the cost of politics."

"A recent review by our peers strongly recommended we move to four-yearly elections and the first step I will take towards that is asking out residents if that's what they want."

"This Conservative administration has saved £8.4million through efficiencies but it's time we look not just at our staff but at ourselves."

However, Labour group leader Laura James said: "The only rea-

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

son the Tories want four yearly elections is a desperate attempt to try and cling on to power for as long as possible.

"This is a complete red herring," she said.

"Most years there are other elections taking place anyway, last year there were county council elections, this year it's European Parliamentary elections and next year are Westminster elections."

"With the borough council elections simply being added to these existing elections barely costs anything extra at all."

Lib Dem group leader Gavin James added: "Using money as an argument to have less councillors and less elections is a dangerous journey to go on. Reducing the size of councillors will risk a greater disconnect between what the Council does and the people it does it for."

Do you have a story to share with our readers?

Contact the Newsdesk on

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Hart groups honoured in latest awards



• Delly Howard, Mike Collen, Hilary Smith, Cllr Stephen Gorys, Angela, and Nigel Young

THE chairman of Hart District Council has honoured four people and one organisation in the latest round of his awards scheme.

Hart Chairman, Cllr Stephen Gorys, rewarded the individuals and organisation at last Thursday's full council meeting.

The recipients included Hilary Smith, for her work as a community volunteer in Odiham, and Delly Howard, on behalf of

residents' group InOdiham.

Mike Collen was also honoured for his community work in Fleet, Nigel Young for his help as a volunteer coach with Aspire Gymnastics, and Angela, who works for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Victim Support.

Cllr Gorys said: "I am delighted to make my award to these deserving people and organisations."

"Every month, we have been able to highlight the fantastic work going on behind the scenes in our district. All these winners have provided help in and for their local community."

Anyone who would like to nominate an individual or organisation for future awards should contact 01252 815652, or visit www.hartvolaction.org.uk for an application form.

News Bites

Let's dive in!

BASINGSTOKE 609 diving club is set to host a talk by an experienced police diver next week, who will discuss how he helps to fight crime.

Nick Peck works for the Thames Valley Police's Specialist Search and Rescue recovery team, having joined in 1986. The talk will take place at the Sherborne St John social club on Thursday March 13 at 8pm. Tickets are £3.

For information contact Eddie Spencer on 07881511197 or email eddiefspencer@hotmail.com.

Maintenance

THE M3 at Junction 5 near Hook will have narrow lanes until July while bridge deck joint replacement works are carried out.

Cars will only be able to go at 50mph, with drainage and safety work also taking place. Overnight lane closures (10pm until 5am) will also be in place, with the northbound carriageway between the junction slip roads closed.

Motorists will use the hard shoulder.

Fancy a holiday?

A CHARITY which organises holidays for disabled people and their carers is appealing for people to go on its next trip. Integration, Communication and Education (ICE) Basingstoke are heading to Benidorm for 11 nights on May 28, and have vacancies available for those interested. For information, contact Lesley Vass on 01256 420647 or email l.vass@ntlworld.com.

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Janice is Lib Dem choice



• Janice Spalding

BASINGSTOKE Liberal Democrats have chosen their parliamentary candidate for next year's general election to go up against Conservative MP Maria Miller.

Janice Spalding, an IT project manager who has lived in Bramley for 14 years, will stand for the Basingstoke seat in May next year.

Having worked in the utility industry in the past, Janice has said she wants increased investment in green energy, such as solar, hydro-electric and wind power.

She said: "Lib Dems in government have been leading from the front, investing in apprenticeships for our young people and promoting green growth – both vital for creating a stronger local economy."

At the 2010 general elections, Liberal Democrat candidate John Shaw received 24.5 per cent of the vote, while Ms Miller was elected with 50.5 per cent of the vote.

Mr Shaw, who is also chair of Basingstoke Liberal Democrats, said: "I'm absolutely delighted to have Janice as our prospective parliamentary candidate."

Hospital workers 'are satisfied with support'

HOSPITAL staff in Basingstoke appear highly satisfied with the backing they receive from superiors, giving them confidence to go the extra mile for the patients they care for.

Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (HHFT) workers recently completed a national survey, asking whether they were pleased with their working environment.

The trust's chief executive Mary Edwards said: "We are one of the largest employers in the region, with around 5,000 staff in clinical and support roles."

"Our staff are fundamental to our ability to deliver excellent care to our patients, and it is important we support them and enable them to develop their expertise."

"We are not complacent and we know there are some areas we could improve, for instance avoiding staff working long hours or feeling stressed."

HHFT is one of the top 20 per cent of similar NHS trusts for the amount of staff agreeing they had never experienced physical violence or discrimination from the public or colleagues.

Meanwhile, Monday was NHS Change Day, which saw NHS staff pledging to change one thing about how they work to make a difference to patients.

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

The day, now in its second year, is a grass-roots campaign where NHS staff can pledge to do small things that will add up to a positive outcome.

Staff at HHFT have made different pledges which range from simplifying the language they use to encouraging colleagues to give blood.

Senior Operational Services Manager Melissa Way used NHS Change Day to inspire colleagues to spend some time with dementia patients.

"We already have a cohort of dementia volunteers who give up their time to befriend and support our patients who have dementia, but what we'd like to do is encourage more of our colleagues to spend lunch breaks with our dementia patients."

"It would give the patients some company and cheer their day. Staff will benefit too – sitting with dementia patients and talking with them will give our colleagues a better understanding of the challenges they face and a better idea of how to help them overcome them."

"And, of course, I'm sure our staff will have a great time doing it too."

Brand new health centre for Basingstoke



A NEW private health centre has been set up to offer diagnosis and treatment to Basingstoke and surrounding areas.

The Candover Clinic is located in a new purpose-built facility on the Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital site, and is funded by the Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Its profits are reinvested in local NHS care, and is complemented by a 22-bed inpatient ward and diagnostic suite at

the site.

Kevin Harris, clinical director of Candover Clinic, said: "Candover exists to provide care and choice to local people who are privately insured or self-funding."

"Our facilities set a new standard in private health care and create much needed competition in the area."

"Our consultant-led approach and the fact we are independent means that we only ever consider your health and wellbeing

when making decisions about your care."

Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust chief executive Mary Edwards added: "Developing private healthcare facilities is of great benefit to our NHS service."

"The income we receive from our private healthcare is used to improve and develop the services we provide for NHS patients."

• The new Candover Clinic

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Entertainment

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The mysteries of the water world

"AN UNDERWATER murder mystery". That is, in Jeremy Wade's words, what River Monsters is all about.

Fans of the show will remember man-sized piranhas, fish that electrocute and the most recent insight of how a Greenland shark could have been mistaken for the Loch Ness Monster.

And now avid viewers have

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Contact the Newsdesk on 01235 516930

or email news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

By Jack Johnson

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

the chance to meet Jeremy in person as River Monsters goes on a UK tour this March, stopping off at The Haymarket in Basingstoke next Thursday.

Jeremy says 'River Monsters Face-to-Face' is an opportunity for people to see more than what is shown on TV and to learn about his life as an explorer.

A keen angler at a young age, he rediscovered his love for fresh water fishing through travelling and writing after studying biology.

He lists a plane crash in the Amazon just over 10 years ago, where the engine cut out over the forest, causing the aircraft to crash in to a tree, as his most "dramatic experience".

"I lost a lot of sleep for a few

weeks just going over how that might have ended differently," Jeremy said. "You don't want too many experiences like that."

So what is it about freshwater fishing that is so exciting, yet has a sense of the unknown?

"The fascination for me with freshwater is that although it is closer to us, I feel that rivers are more mysterious than the sea," the 57-year-old said.

"It comes down to the simple matter that in rivers there is poor visibility.

"I think there is a common perception that scientists know exactly what lives in water, how big they grow, and actually they don't.

"There is real sense of discovery, for seeing things for the first time, and bringing things to television for the first time."

And what about the fright-

ful piranhas, catfish and bull sharks we have seen on the show?

"Fear is actually a useful emotion," Jeremy added.

"In terms of the fish, in most cases, that is what I am least worried about.

"It is more the stuff that takes you by surprise.

"For instance, our sound recorder was hit by lightning in Suriname in South America, and that just came out of the blue.

"A little bit of insecurity adds very nicely to the programmes.

"We don't want the places to seem completely benign, they need to be challenging but not to the point where it is getting out of hand and people are genuinely in danger."

Tickets cost £19 for a 7.30pm start. For more information, go to www.anvilarts.org.uk.



• Jeremy Wade with a real monster of the river!

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Entertainment

Welcome to our Entertainments page where we are showcasing all that is good in local entertainment ranging from professional to amateur acts. If you would like your event considered for publication please contact reporter Adam Flinn at adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk or telephone 01235 516933

Something different

FIVE-PIECE folk group Mawkin, formed by brothers Jamie and David Delarre, comes to The Forge in Basingstoke on Saturday evening.

The group have been performing since 2002, and were nominated for a BBC Folk Award following the release of their debut album 'The Awkward Recruit' in 2009.

Mawkin return to The Forge after they previously performed at the venue in 2010, and this time will be playing from material they hope to use in an upcoming album.

"Basically it's a step in a different direction for us," said David. "The process we usually do is hide away in a studio for several months, write the album, record the album, and then release and tour it."

"This time we decided instead of writing the material, then recording it and touring, we thought we'd write the material and road test it first."

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

"So half the set will be new that hasn't been played out at all, which is going to be quite brave of us!"

David and James are joined in the band by Lee Richardson on drums, bass player Danny Crump and Nick Cooke on the melodeon.

Speaking about working with his brother, David said: "It's got its upsides and downsides!"

"It's a pleasure playing with him every night, there's a connection there which there isn't with other musicians who aren't related to you."

"We've been playing together since I was eight-years-old, so 20 years now, and I think that's a nice thing to be adding to the performance."

"Obviously there's the downside that we sometimes rub each other up the wrong way, but that's just like any brothers!"

Saturday's show begins at 7.30pm, and tickets cost £14.50. Go to www.anvilarts.org.uk or call 01256 844244 to book.



• Mawkin return to Basingstoke this weekend as they try out material for their upcoming album

Comedy cabaret

COMEDY Cabaret returns to the Proteus Creation Space tomorrow night, featuring headline act Ian Lane.

Other acts taking part in the cabaret include Candy Gigi, Malcolm Julian Swan and Tim Shishodia, for four hours of stand-up comedy in what promises to be an entertaining evening.

Student shows

STUDENTS from Queen Mary's College are staging three different shows at Central Studio next week, featuring live music as they showcase their abilities.

'Thank You For the Music' is on Tuesday, 'Now That's What I Call Live Music' on Wednesday and 'Starstruck' on Thursday, each of which is being staged by music students.

Moscow circus

THE Moscow State Circus comes to The Anvil tomorrow and Saturday, in one of the most famous circus performances on the planet.

Clowns Pavlik and Klava are joined by the ladder balancing Efremkin Brothers, the Yakovlev Vertical Pole Jugglers and the hand balancing of Vladislav Khostik, among many other acts.

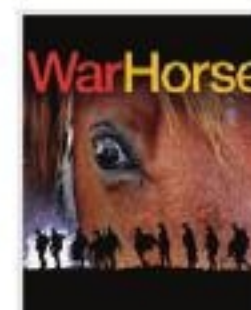
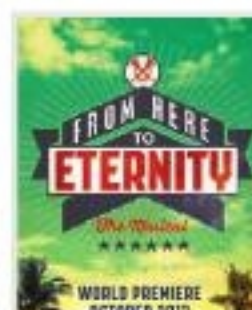
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Louise Porton on 01635 299371 or email education@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

6 March, 7am - 9am

London Street Church, Basingstoke
HOW FAIR ARE BANANAS?
A Fairtrade Fortnight 'across the town' event at which people from the Winward Islands, Fyffes and the Fairtrade Foundation inform and answer your questions. Refreshments provided.
secretary@londonstreeturc.org

6 March, 7:30

Central Studio Queen Mary's College
A NOVEMBER DAY
In forgotten boxes in an attic, a woman discovers the story of her grandfather, a survivor of the First World War, and his unexpected encounter with a stray dog who knew no boundaries. With evocative puppet characters, live music and an ever-changing set, Thingumajig Theatre presents a timeless fable on war and the miracle of friendship when all else seems lost.
www.centralstudio.co.uk

7 March, from 8:00pm

The Tea Bar, Basingstoke
JAZZ NIGHT
with the fantastic Andy Kennedy Jazz Quartet

7 March, 7:30

Central Studio Queen Mary's College
ACOUSTIC OPEN MIC NIGHT
FREE. Come along to play at Central

Studio, or just come to hear some of the most talented musicians in Basingstoke. Everybody welcome, from professionals to first time performers.
Do you want to perform? Email paul.phillips@qmc.ac.uk in advance.

7 March - 8 March

The Anvil

THE MOSCOW STATE CIRCUS

Superstar clowns Pavlik and Klava invite the audience to a wondrous and mysterious place. As the loveable buffoons reminisce about past times in one of the most famous cities on earth they are surrounded by a multitude of flying, back flipping, juggling and roller skating performers.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

8 March

The Tea Bar, Basingstoke

ACOUSTIC LIVE WITH RYAN SAUNDERS

A very talented young man, listen out for his Elvis acoustic set.

8 March, 7:30pm

The Forge

MAWKIN

Forged out of the electric partnership of brothers Jamie and David Delarre, Mawkin are a concoction of brilliantly inventive musicianship and uninhibited exuberance.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

9 March, 7:30pm

The Anvil

THE TENORS

The music of Clifton Murray, Victor Micallef, Remigio Pereira and Fraser Walters is rich and soulful with powerful anthems and beautiful melodies, sung not only in English and French, but also in Spanish and Italian, reflecting their multicultural heritage.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

9 March, 12:30pm - 5pm

Popley fields community centre FAMILY FUN AFTERNOON

A fantastic afternoon of fun with the amazing Britain's got talent finalist Steve Hewlett and Friends with additional acts and activities including: Family entertainment - Disco, Competitions raffle, and more, £5 per person, or £16 for a family ticket for 4.
01256 423851

11 March, 7:45pm

St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road (B3350), Earley Reading

BERKS GP OF HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

AGM and talk by Timothy Walker on The Harcourt Arboretum - Oxford's best kept secret.
www.berkshirehps.org.uk

12 March, 7:30pm

The Haymarket

EMILY: THE MAKING OF A MILITANT SUFFRAGETTE

Emily Wilding Davison was an extraordinary woman pushed to extraordinary deeds. She died under the galloping hooves of King George's Derby horse in 1913. She was campaigning for what she believed in. This is the story of all her life and the events that led to her untimely end.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

13 March, 7:30pm

The Haymarket

RIVER MONSTERS FACE-TO- FACE

Rare opportunity to see Jeremy Wade, the presenter of the global hit television series River Monsters, biology teacher and angler turned seat-of-the-pants explorer.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

14 March, 7:30pm

Central Studio Queen Mary's

College

THINGUMAJIG THEATRE PRESENTS A NOVEMBER DAY

a tale about two men, a dog and a war between them. Marking the centenary of the First World War, this play explores the timely question of how we remember.
www.centralstudio.co.uk 01256 418318

14 March, 7:45pm

The Anvil

PHILHARMONIA ORCHES- TRA

The Alpine Symphony, scored for a vast orchestra, recounts a mountaineering adventure in entertaining detail. Also sprach Zarathustra, Strauss's 'homage to Nietzsche's genius', became a hit after film director Stanley Kubrick used it for 2001: A Space Odyssey. It opens with one of the most striking fanfares in all music, and builds to tremendous

climaxes, including the Dance of the Superman, before dissolving into an enigmatic ending, poised uncertainly between two keys.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

15th March -

21st April

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01794369318, hilliergardens.org.uk

15 March, 4:55pm

Farnham Maltings Association

THE MET: LIVE IN HD MAS- SENET: WERTHER

The cast is led by Jonas Kaufmann, singing the title role of the brooding poet opposite Sophie Koch, his unattainable love, Charlotte.
www.farnhammaltings.com

16 March

The Raven Hotel, Hook

PSYCHIC FAYRE

With specially selected unique readers/Holistic Therapists and stall holders. Come along for a welcoming and mystical atmosphere.
Admission £2
7939370065

16 March, 7:30pm

The Forge

THE COAL PORTERS

Formed ten years ago by ex-Long Ryder, former NME cover boy Sid Griffin, The Coal Porters comprise two world-class virtuosos in fiddler Carly Frey and banjo man John Breese, and former stand-up comedian in guitarist Neil Herd.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

16 March, 7:30pm

The Anvil

KEN DODD

Come and enjoy his famous Hap-piness Show and you will be absolutely discombobulated (that's Knotty Ash for 'over the moon') by a truly taffelarius (fun-filled) evening of laughter and songs presented by a comedy genius.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

19 March - 23 March, 7:30pm

The Haymarket

ENTERTAINING MR SLOANE

Kath and her elderly father Kemp live in a house on the outskirts of a

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rubbish dump. Their drab existence is interrupted by the arrival of a new lodger, the enigmatic Mr Sloane. Provocative and sexually ambiguous, Sloane soon has both Kath and her brother Ed competing for his favours. But all is not as it seems. Behind Sloane's nonchalant demeanour lies a calculating psychopath with a dark and secretive past. Seduction, blackmail and murder lie waiting in the wings.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

20 March, 7:30pm

The Anvil

TOM PAXTON AND JANIS IAN TOGETHER AT LAST

Both Tom and Janis have ties to the classic Greenwich Village folk scene, yet they are nearly a generation apart. They share a slew of folk influences as well as an affinity for fearlessly tackling controversial issues.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

21 March, 7:45pm

The Anvil

ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

The programme features two of Bach's masterpieces, his Double Violin Concerto and Brandenburg Concertos Nos 3 and 6. However, the real gamechanger on the programme is the rare concerto for the now 'extinct' violoncello da spalla, a piece which lay forgotten until as recently as 2004.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

22 March - 23 March, 10am - 3pm

Newlyn's Farm Shop and cafe

NEWLYNS 10TH ANNIVERSARY LAMBING WEEKEND

Newlyn's Farm Shop and Café will be celebrating their tenth anni-

versary with a lambing weekend on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd March. Opening times are 10am to 3pm and entry cost is £3, children under 3 free. There will be lots to do and see including feeding the lambs, sheep racing, sheep dog displays and a hog roast and barbecue. The shop will be re-opening after extensive refurbishment creating a larger butchery department, an extended delicatessen counter and larger farm café.
01256 704128 www.newlyn-farmshop.co.uk

25 March, 7:30pm - 9pm

BASINGSTOKE HERITAGE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Andrew Benson-Wilson, founder chairman of the society will talk about the founding of the society and the issues it has faced over the past 25 years. Bill Fergie, who was Director of Planning at that time, will talk about the planning issues he faced 25 years ago. Free parking after 7pm, and level access
www.bas-herit-soc.org

29 March - 30 March, 10am - 4:30pm

The Studio, Westlea, Tower Hill, Dummer, Basingstoke, RG25 2AL

WEEKEND ART COURSE WITH KIRSTIN WHITE

Ideal for the complete beginner artist, or indeed anyone seeking a better command of watercolour painting and of picture making in general, this course will introducing the student to watercolour painting technique, visual thinking and some picture making essentials, such as creativity, composition and colour theory. Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th March 2014 10am until 4.30pm

(with a midday break) Only £97
www.kirstinwhite.co.uk 01489 690303

8 April, 7:45pm

St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road (B3350), Earley Reading

BERKS GP OF HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

A talk by Hilary Newman on Climbers and wall plants.
www.berkshirehps.org.uk

19 April, 11am - 3pm

Elizabeth Hall, Raven Road, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9HH

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Save the date for an Easter extravaganza! This is Easter Saturday get your best bonnet ready! Dolly's first trip to Hook for a hand made and vintage fair. We have lots of unique and vintage stall holders booked and ready to dazzle you. We will post more details on Dolly's facebook and twitter.

We are raising funds at this events for SANDS the stillbirth and neonatal charity <https://www.uk-sands.org/>

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We have an a vintage tea rooms serving delicious sandwiches, cakes, tea, coffee and soft drinks. An outdoor pizza oven will also be fired up to serve you a delicious lunch

THE HALL

Website: www.hookvillagehalls.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/hookvillagehalls

Lots of free parking

ENTRY

£1 for adults and children go free
www.dollysvintage.co.uk

20 April - 20 April, 7pm - 10pm
The Ark Conference Centre in Basingstoke

INDIAN FILM AND SUPPER NIGHT

Pelican Cancer Foundation is hosting a fundraising event, a private viewing of 2013's critically acclaimed British-Asian comedy Jadoo.

Jadoo is a colourful and engaging food-feud-and-family comedy feature film set in Leicester. It centres on two brothers, both chefs, who fall-out catastrophically and set-up rival restaurants, on



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PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return flight from London Heathrow airport to Boston*
- 4 nights stay at the Best Western Royal Plaza hotel, Marlborough with breakfast
- 2 nights stay at the Ogunquit River Plantation hotel, Maine with breakfast
- 3 nights stay at the Holiday Inn Rutland, Vermont with breakfast

*We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these flights be above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised prices are correct as of 27/12/13 and is based upon departure from Heathrow airport on 8/10/14

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Option Two

25 September - 5 October 2014 and 9 - 19 October 2014

Visiting Cape Cod, the Island of Martha's Vineyard, the Pilgrim town of Plymouth (and the Plimoth Plantation), Boston, the battlefields of Lexington, Salem, Newport (Rhode Island), New Hampshire, Vermont and Stowe.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return flight from London Heathrow airport to Boston**
- 3 nights stay at the Resort and Conference Center, Hyannis with breakfast
- 4 nights stay at the Best Western Royal Plaza hotel, Marlborough with breakfast
- 2 nights stay at the Holiday Inn Rutland, Vermont with breakfast

**We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these flights be above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised prices are correct as of 27/12/13 and is based upon departure from Heathrow airport on 25/9/14

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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2 | | 9 | 1 | | 8 | 7 | |
| 8 | | | | | 3 | 1 | | |
| | 4 | | | | 2 | 9 | | 5 |
| 1 | 6 | | | 3 | | 2 | | |
| 7 | | | 2 | | 9 | | | 3 |
| | | 4 | | 7 | | | 9 | 8 |
| 3 | | 2 | 8 | | | | 6 | |
| | | 5 | 6 | | | | | 9 |
| | 8 | 6 | | 5 | 1 | | 4 | |

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| 6 | | 4 | 1 | | | 5 | | |
| 3 | | | 9 | | 8 | | | 2 |
| | | 9 | | | 3 | 7 | | 6 |
| | | | | | | 3 | 1 | |
| | | | | 7 | | | 6 | |
| | | | | | 5 | | 9 | 7 |

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

- 1 Indistinctly pronounced (7)
- 5 Frolics (5)
- 8 Correct (4)
- 9 Unaccompanied song (8)
- 10 Inward-looking (13)
- 13 Italian wine (4)
- 14 Besides (4)
- 17 Sin (13)
- 19 Undeviating (8)
- 20 Smooth out (4)
- 21 Recapitulate (3,2)
- 22 Settler (7)

Quick Clues Down

- 2 Cargo (6)
- 3 Answers (7)
- 4 Trapping (9)
- 5 Meant to be sung (5)
- 6 Syncopated music (7)
- 7 Able to pay debts (7)
- 11 Essential (9)
- 12 Bears witness (7)
- 13 Word arrangement (7)
- 15 Meeting period (7)
- 16 Gloomy (6)
- 18 Allow too little (5)

Cryptic Clues Across

- 1 Tells by means of fashionable documents (7)
- 5 Confers underwear (5)
- 8 Let it stand as a sort of test (4)
- 9 Relax and do come in. How suggestive! (8)
- 10 Herr Doktor should be able to diagnose this complaint (6,7)
- 13 Time's up. Come out (4)
- 14 Forbidden poet? (4)
- 17 I am to consider skilful points. Quite incalculable (13)
- 19 Is a metal cup a Spanish ruler? (8)
- 20 With which to see the flag? (4)
- 21 Groups who sang out after the end of the drinking (5)
- 22 Pave the way to waking the snake stop (7)

Cryptic Clues Down

- 2 Catch her being behind (6)
- 3 It's best to work it up, Mother (7)
- 4 Strangely animated about a letter - simply pickled, in fact (9)
- 5 Shakesperian character on the fiddle (5)
- 6 Very thick-skinned, she goes fifty-fifty with the Editor (7)
- 7 Please speak about misfits (7)
- 11 Disconcert me coming back to hinder a right fool (9)
- 12 Character can squeeze round it (7)
- 13 Account for being no longer obvious (7)
- 15 Irritate the out-of-work bishop with this nonsense (7)
- 16 It's pardonable when mercenary takes one in (6)
- 18 Proverbially they must when Satan is at the wheel (5)

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|----|--|----|----|---|
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| 19 | | | | | | | | | 20 | | |
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Scribble space

Last week's solutions

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 6 |
| 3 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 8 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 9 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 6 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 9 |
| 7 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 5 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 4 |
| 4 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 7 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 5 |
| 4 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 6 |
| 8 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| 7 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 9 |
| 3 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| 2 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 3 |
| 6 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 8 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 6 |
| 6 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 4 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| 9 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| 8 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 |
| 5 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 1 |
| 3 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 4 |
| 7 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| 2 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 9 |

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Comprehends 9 Rub 10 Perimeter 11 Extol
13 Pinnacle 14 Horace 19 Editor 18 Noisily 19 Lurid
20 Emulating 21 Tar 22 Delectation

Down: 2 Orb 3 Pupil 4 Europe 5 Ermined 6 Detractor
7 Freethinker 7 Freetraders 12 Turpitude 15 Climate
17 Typist 19 Light 21 Too

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Pocket money 9 Ear 10 Christian 11 Limps 13 Fir
tree 14 Result 16 Better 18 Treacle 19 Side 20 Offensive
21 Ant 22 Alternately

Down: 2 Oar 3 Kicks 4 Tariff 5 Observe 6 Emigrated
7 Declaration 7 Endearments 12 Masterful 15 Licence
17 Legion 19 Spent 21 All

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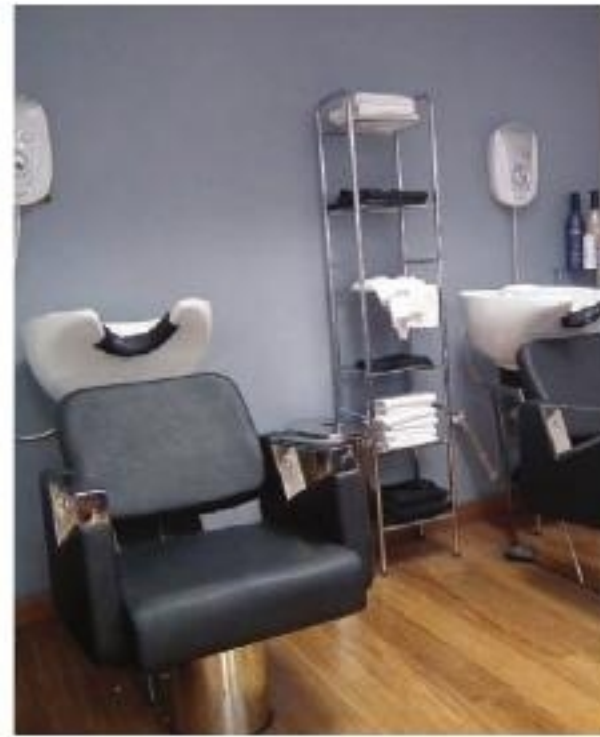


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BARBER SHOPS & HAIRDRESSERS

We are a one of the most popular barbershops/hairdressers in Basingstoke and north Hampshire, with over 1,500 clients per week.



We have 25 stylists/barbers and are professional, precise offering precision with value and good customer service in a friendly, not pretentious atmosphere.

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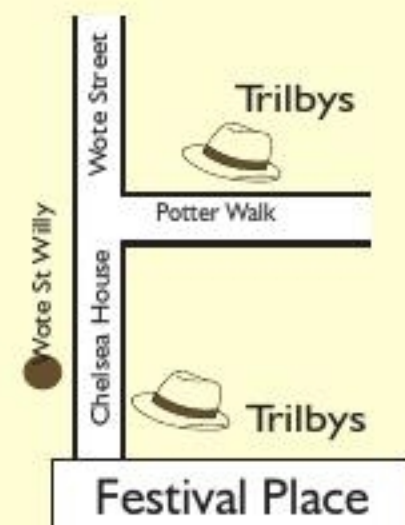
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|--------------------------|--------|
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| Childrens (Boy under 10) | £8.95 |
| OAP Mens from | £5.95 |
| Ladies Trim from | £15.00 |
| Ladies OAP Trim from | £13.50 |
| Girls under 10 | £10.00 |

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By AIR from Gatwick airport

European Holidays by Air

Diano Marina & the Riviera of Flowers



Saturday departures, 7 June and 6 September 2014

From Gatwick airport

Imagine a backdrop of hills clad in olive groves and pine, lemon and orange trees leading down to picturesque coves, splendid beaches, and the hinterland blazing with the exotic flowering blooms from which the Italian Riviera of Flowers gets its name... savour delightful Diano Marina on this great-value holiday with a quality hotel and two fully-escorted excursions.

Price includes:

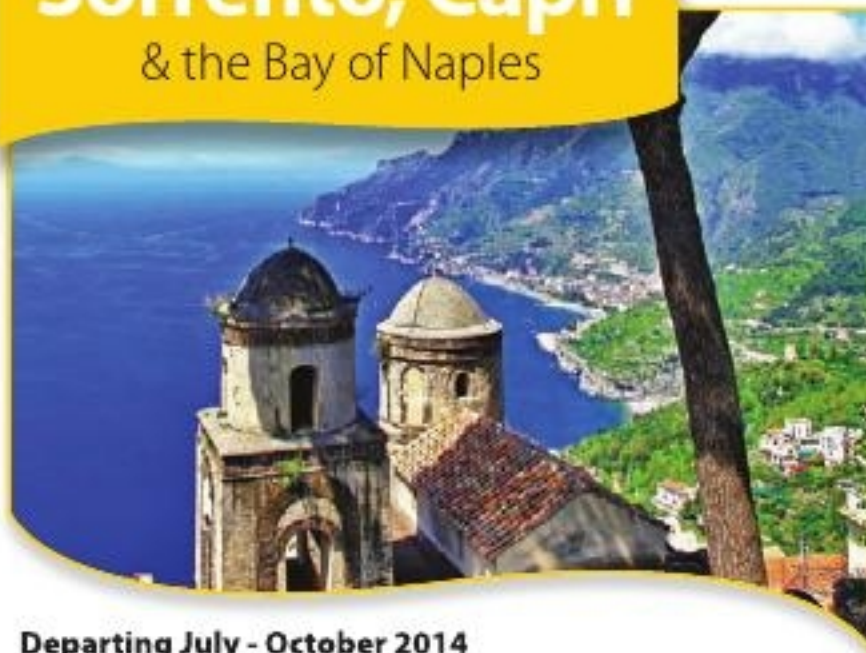
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Nice†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Piccolo Diano Marina with dinner & breakfast
- An upgrade to the 4 star Hotel Metropol, Diano Marina is offered, subject to availability, at a supplement.
- Includes 2 full day excursions; to Santa Margherita & Portofino and Monaco & Monte Carlo

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Sorrento, Capri & the Bay of Naples



Departing July - October 2014

From Gatwick airport

This is a dream of a break among the cliffs, lemon-orchards, olive-groves and turquoise waters of Italy's favourite bay. We invite you to discover the beautiful medieval city of Sorrento, which overlooks the magical waters of the Bay of Naples, allowing panoramic views of the city of Naples, the lovely islands of Capri and Ischia, and the awe-inspiring Mount Vesuvius.

Price includes:

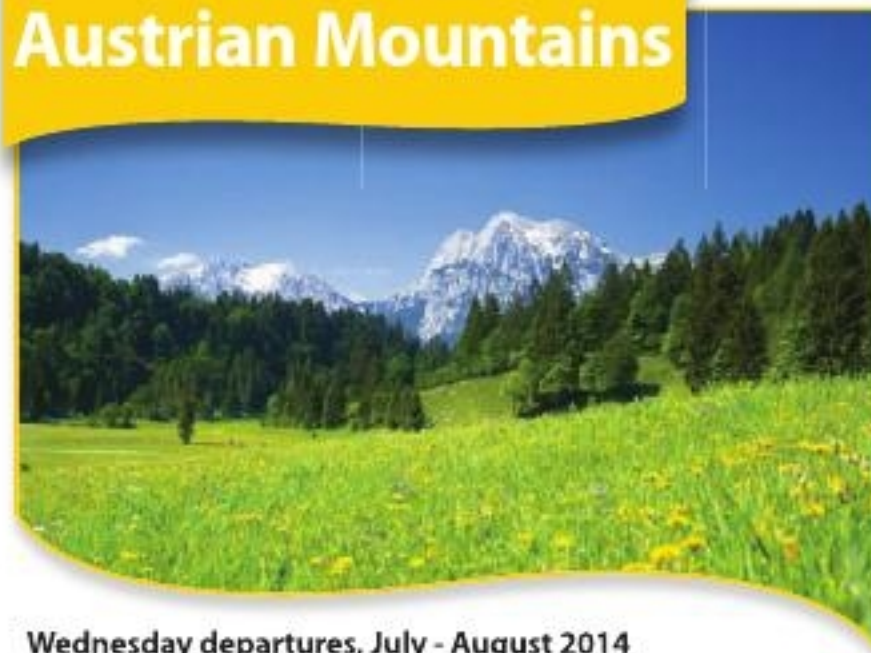
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Naples†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 4 star Hotel Delle Palme, Sant'Agata sui due Golfi with 3 course evening meal and breakfast
- Three full-day escorted excursions; to the Island of Capri, to Pompeii & Vesuvius, and the Amalfi Drive

Includes
Escorted Excursions

8 days by AIR, from
£759pp

Price is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 29/9/14

Summer in the Austrian Mountains



Wednesday departures, July - August 2014

From Gatwick airport

Mountain pine air you could bottle and sell, glacier fresh beer, scented meadows, a history of music and mad kings, houses painted as optical illusions – discover alpine Austria with this Omega 8 day break including flights, 4 star hotel, dinner, breakfast and full day excursions.

Price includes:

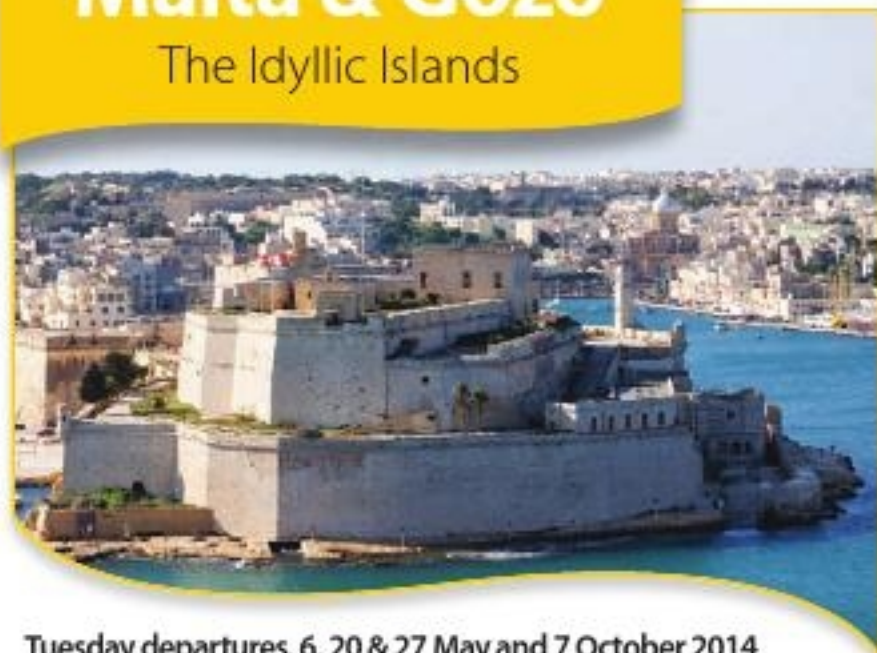
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Basel†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from Basel airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 4 star Sport Hotel, St Anton am Arlberg with breakfast and evening meal
- Full day excursion to Oberammergau
- Full day excursion to Lake Constance and Lindau (inc boat trip)
- Half day on scenic high mountain Silvretta highway visiting Schruns and Ischgl

Includes
Escorted Excursions

8 days by AIR, from
£659pp

Price is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 16/7/14

Malta & Gozo The Idyllic Islands



Tuesday departures, 6, 20 & 27 May and 7 October 2014

From Gatwick airport

Set in the heart of the Mediterranean, the idyllic island of Malta has been described as one big open-air museum, with so much of its past being visible today including ancient temples and palaces, the world's oldest surviving free standing stone structures and red telephone boxes! A cultural gem bursting with a rich, diverse heritage, stunning scenery, great cuisine and an endearing charm.

Price includes:

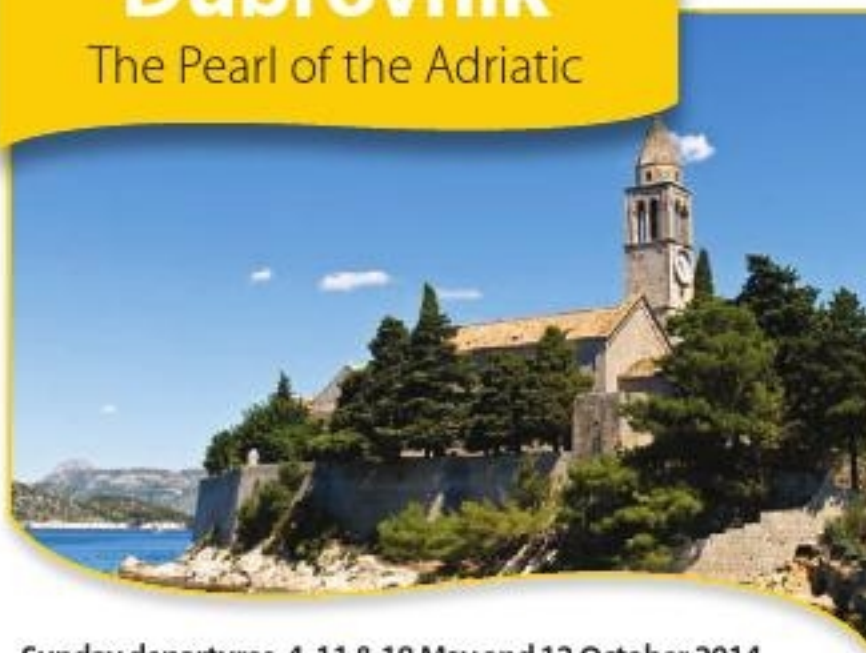
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Malta†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 4 star Park Hotel, Sliema with dinner & breakfast
- An included excursion to Gozo
- A visit to Valletta including admission to The Malta Experience
- Includes a full day excursion; to The Three Cities; Cospicua, Senglea & Vittoriosa

Includes
Escorted Excursions

8 days by AIR, from
£749pp

Price is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 6/5/14

Dubrovnik The Pearl of the Adriatic



Sunday departures, 4, 11 & 18 May and 12 October 2014

From Gatwick airport

The magnificent old walled city of Dubrovnik is steeped in historical, architectural and artistic treasures boasting spectacular Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque churches, monasteries, palaces and fountains. Set against a backdrop of wooded hillsides and with stunning views of the Dalmatian coastline, it is easy to see why George Bernard Shaw thought idyllic Dubrovnik was quite simply "Paradise on Earth".

Price includes:

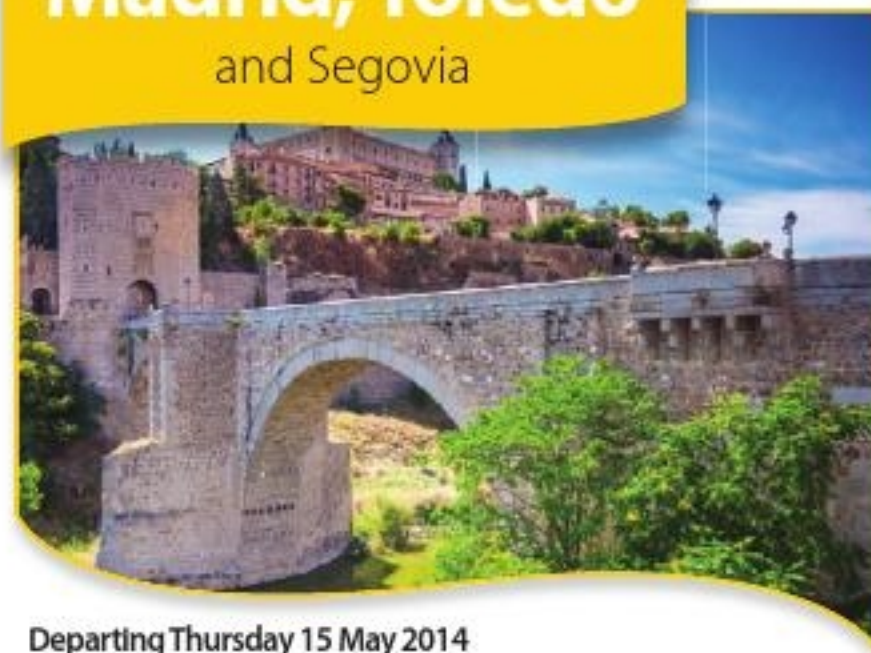
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Dubrovnik†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 4 star Grand Hotel Park, Dubrovnik with dinner & breakfast
- Includes 2 full day excursions; to the island of Korčula and a cruise around the Elaphite Islands

Includes
Escorted Excursions

8 days by AIR, from
£749pp

Price is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 11/5/14

Madrid, Toledo and Segovia



Departing Thursday 15 May 2014

From Gatwick airport

Discover a warm welcome in magnificent Madrid with its wonderful collections of art, stunning architecture and impeccable parks and gardens. Add to the mix a feast of fine eateries and you have a holiday to remember!

Price includes:

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Madrid†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 5 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Goya, Madrid, with breakfast
- Three buffet dinners
- Included panoramic coach tour and a guided walking tour of the historical centre of Madrid
- Included excursions to Toledo and Segovia
- Free time in Madrid

Includes
Escorted Excursions

6 days by AIR, from
£659pp

Price is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 15/5/14

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 SUN 10.00-15.00

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Competitions

WIN a slice of classic Britpop!

EDSEL Records are doing their best to bring back the heady days of Britpop with their ongoing releases of classic back catalogues.

Strictly in alphabetical order we have deluxe and remastered, 2CD+DVD* editions of the four original albums from 90's Merseyside four piece, Cast.

Undoubtedly the definitive editions of the band's catalogue, each release will come with original artwork, high-quality new packaging, exclusive bonus audio, extra tracks plus new sleeve notes. These superb packages will also include new interviews with Cast frontman John Power.

Labelled 'The Who of the 90's', Noel Gallagher once described watching Cast play live as "a religious experience." Formed in 1992 from the ashes of two of the most lauded guitar bands of recent times - The La's and

Closing date:
Friday, March 14

Shack, Cast released four albums between 1995 and 2001.

Their debut album, 'All Change' (1995), a delightful slice of scouse psychedelic pop, was released on Polydor Records at the height of the Britpop movement, and became the highest selling album for the label, selling over one million copies and spawned four Top 20 hit singles.

Next up is London based Gene. The CDs available here include 'Olympian', 'To See The Lights', 'Revelations', 'Drawn To The Deep End' and 'Libertine'. Presented in 2CD casebound editions, and featuring a host of bonus tracks, rarities, and featuring contributions from the band, these are the defini-

tive re-issues of the bands much loved catalogue.

Gene were formed in London in 1993 by singer Martin Rossiter, guitarist Steve Mason, bassist Kevin Miles and drummer Matt James, Mason and James having previously played together in Sp'n. Inspired by the songs of The Smiths, The Jam and The Faces, Rossiter's literate vocals and Mason's fluid guitar lines were perfectly complemented by the intuitive rhythm section of Miles and James. All in all this is a massive release of some serious classics and we have a complete set of each to give away. All you have to do is answer the following question:

Q: WHO WAS THE GUITARIST IN GENE?



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Competitions

WIN tickets to the NEC Home Improvement Show!

FOR THE first time, The Home Improvement Show, proudly sponsored by Anglian Home Improvements, will be hosted at a second venue for 2014.

In addition to its annual London show, the UK's fastest growing home improvement exhibition will also take place at the NEC, Birmingham from 27-30 March.

Whether you want to cut energy bills through implementing eco measures, create more space with an extension, basement or loft conversion, are in need of inspiration for a new colour scheme or after in vogue furnishings to update your internal decor, The Home Improvement Show promises to provide visitors with a whole host of features

Closing date:
Friday, March 21, 2014

and the latest products from over 150 exhibitors.

With free daily masterclasses and seminars to bespoke one-to-one consultations with celebrity home improvement experts such as eco and architectural specialist, Oliver Heath, from BBC's Changing Rooms, interior design guru, Julia Kendall, from DIY SOS and 60-Minute Makeover, and gardening and landscaping professional, Matt James, from ITV's Love Your Garden.

Your project doesn't just have to

be about your house – the garden matters too! Unearth new ways to maximise your property's outdoor space for family living, gardening or entertaining from a whole host of gardening and landscaping exhibitors.

The two most important rooms in your home will be celebrated in The Kitchen & Bathroom Inspiration Zone brought to you by Kitchens, Bedrooms & Bathrooms magazine. Whatever your budget, this area brings together the latest in innovative products and stylish designs.

The Tricks of the Trade live demonstrations conducted by the show's resident DIY Doctor, Mike Edwards, offers recommendations on avoiding rogue traders and how to add the finishing touches yourself.

Standard tickets are £12 if booked before 3pm (with £1.75 transaction fee) on 26 March 2014 or £17 on the door (children under 16 go free).

For more information and tickets, visit www.improveyourhomeshow.co.uk/nec or call the ticket hotline 0844 8540503. Opening times: Thurs to Sunday 10am – 5pm

WIN TICKETS! We have 10 pairs of tickets to give away and all you have to do to be in with a chance of winning is answer this simple question:

Q: WHO SPONSORS THE HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOW?

To enter more competitions like this, go online to basingstokeobserver.co.uk

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To enter this competition:



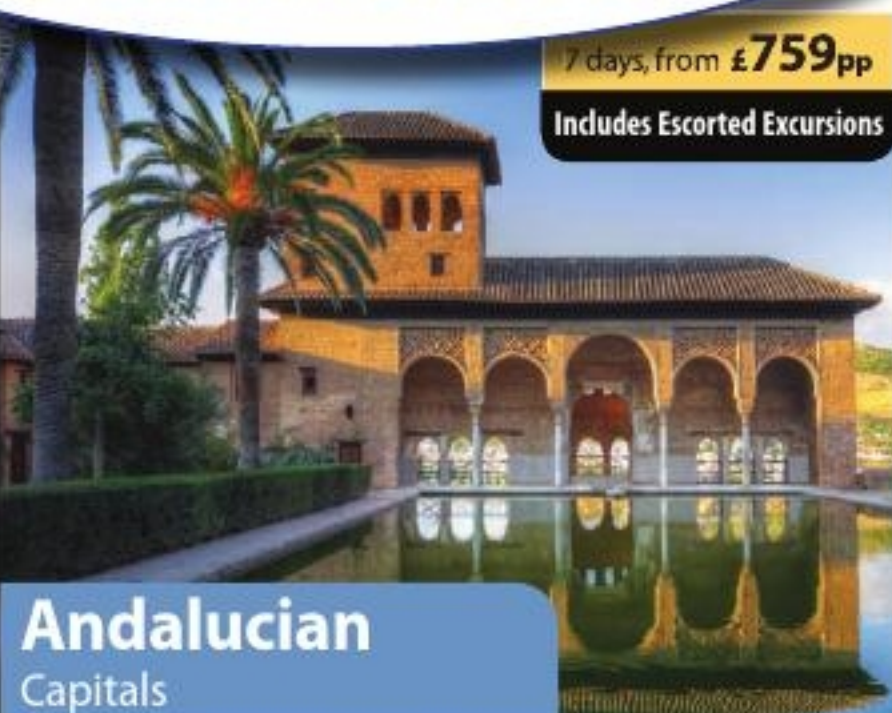
Just send your answer along with your name, address and telephone number to competitions@basingstokeobserver.co.uk



Or on a postcard to Competitions, Basingstoke Observer, Newspaper House, 4A Haworth, Didcot, OX11 7HR



Basingstoke Observer



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Includes Escorted Excursions

Andalusian Capitals

Thursday departures, 12 June, 4 & 25 September 2014
From Gatwick airport

Just across the Strait of Gibraltar from Morocco, Andalusia is simply one of the most beautiful and unspoilt corners of Europe. Its stunning cities are steeped in history with a culture influenced by the Moors and the Romans which is enriched by the greatly contrasting surrounding landscape.

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Malaga[†]
- Airport taxes & return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 6 nights stay at the 4 star Hotel Antequera Golf, Antequera with dinner & breakfast
- A guided tour of the Great Mosque of Cordoba (Mezquita)
- Admission to the Alhambra Palace & the Generalife in Granada
- Includes 3 excursions; to Cordoba, Granada & Seville

[†] We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27 December 2013 and is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 12 June 2014.



8 days, from **£689pp**

Includes Escorted Excursions

Barcelona and Catalonia

Departing Wednesday 14 May 2014
From Gatwick airport

From Gothic to Gaudi, the ramblas to the champlas, in Barcelona there is artistry on every street corner. We'll take you to Montserrat and the Black Madonna, Figueres and the Dalí Museum, La Garrotxa with its volcanic gorges, and eleventh century Besalu with its Jewish quarter. All this, and you've still got time to stroll on the beach at Calella on the Costa Brava, visit a wine cava, and the markets at La Boqueria, or just relax in 4-star style.

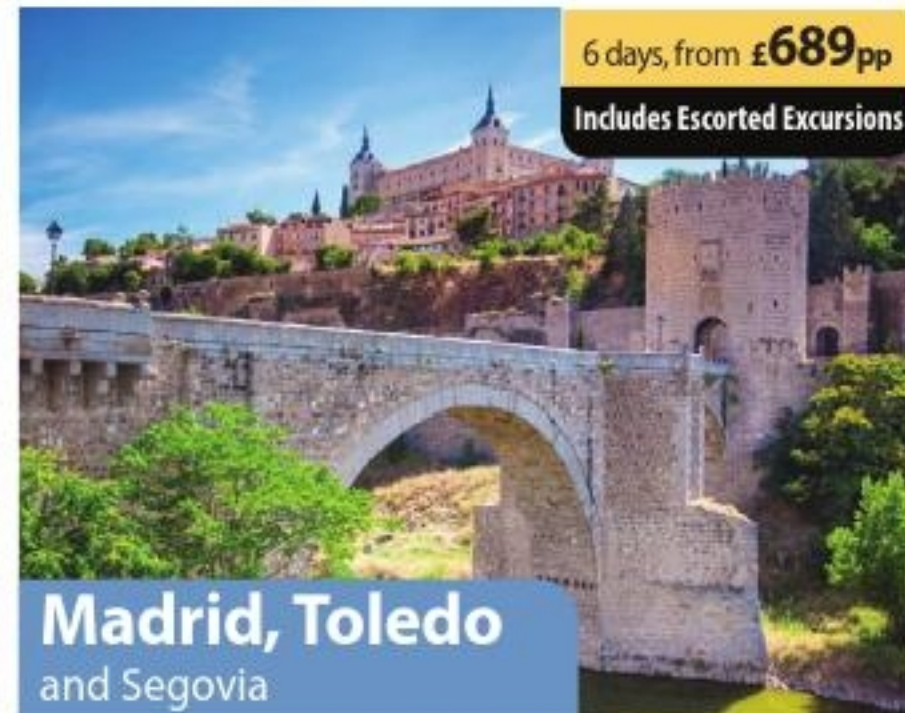
Price includes:

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Barcelona^{††}
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay in 4 star Hotel Les Palmeres, Calella with dinner & breakfast
- Includes 3 full day excursions; to Barcelona including guided walking tour of the old town, Montserrat and Figueres with admission to the Dalí Museum



^{††} We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27 December 2013.

Reader Travel



6 days, from **£689pp**

Includes Escorted Excursions

Madrid, Toledo and Segovia

Departing Thursday 15 May 2014
From Gatwick airport

Discover a warm welcome in magnificent Madrid with its wonderful collections of art, stunning architecture and impeccable parks and gardens. Add to the mix a feast of fine eateries and you have a holiday to remember!

Price includes:

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Madrid^{†††}
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 5 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Ganivet, Madrid, with breakfast
- Three buffet dinners
- Included panoramic coach tour and a guided walking tour of the historical centre of Madrid
- Included excursions to Toledo and Segovia
- Free time in Madrid

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or visit: www.basingstokeobserver.reader.travel

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Manufacturer unveils latest version of the highly-popular model

Focus on the new Ford

FORD Motor Company have revealed the advanced new Focus at this week's Geneva Show – the first European Ford to offer the voice-activated in-car connectivity system SYNC 2.

SYNC 2 is among a suite of life-enhancing new technologies making their European debut.

Ford's advanced in-car connectivity system features a high-resolution, eight-inch colour touch screen and advanced voice control for easier access to audio, navigation, climate control and compatible mobile phones. SYNC 2's navigation system also offers a split-screen display for the first time in Europe with detailed intersections, spoken street names, 3D highway junction and landmark views, plus the MICHELIN Guide and MICHELIN Green Guide.

SYNC features in more than eight million Ford vehicles since being launched in the U.S. in 2007. SYNC 2, the second generation of the system, is more intuitive and enables drivers to issue simpler "one-shot" navigation destinations. Pushing the voice control button and saying "I'm hungry" will bring up a list of local restaurants, for example.

REVIEW: FORD FOCUS

By **Andy Allans**

The new Ford Focus elevates the world's best-selling nameplate with a bolder, more emotive exterior design, a finely crafted, intuitive new interior, and major fuel economy improvements.

"Not satisfied with being number one, we wanted to blow people away with a stunning new version of the Focus that would build on this car's reputation for introducing advanced technology," said Stephen Odell, president of Ford of Europe, Middle East and Africa.

"New Focus will enable people to switch seamlessly between touch screen and voice commands, and also to control more in-car systems than ever before, while keeping their eyes on the road and their hands on the wheel."

The new Focus is the first Ford to offer Perpendicular Parking, a new hands-free parking technology that helps drivers reverse into spaces alongside other cars.

The current Focus introduced the par-

allel parking aid Active Park Assist that, at the push of a button, uses ultrasonic sensors to locate parking spaces and steer the vehicle while the driver controls the accelerator and brake.

The addition of two new sensors to the rear of the new Focus enables Perpendicular Parking to operate in the same way.

New Focus will also be offered with Ford's MyKey technology for the first time. MyKey enables owners to programme a key – usually for younger drivers – that restricts the top speed, reduces the maximum volume of the audio system, and can disable it altogether if driver and passengers are not using safety belts.

The improved Adaptive Front Lighting System adjusts the beams of the new Bi-Xenon HID headlamps to best suit the road layout. The system assesses the ambient light surrounding a vehicle, as well as objects in the road ahead and then adjusts the headlight beam angle and intensity to one of seven settings depending on the vehicle's speed, steering angle and distance to an object in front.



• The Ford Focus

At high speeds, such as on a motorway, the headlights are raised to project a longer, straighter beam for visibility further ahead; in towns where speeds are lower and street lighting more intense, the beam spreads out downwards for more intense illumination of the road immediately ahead. When cornering at lower speeds, the system projects a beam towards the side of the road to

make cyclists and pedestrians more visible.

The new Focus takes the model's fun-to-drive personality up a level with enhanced handling and steering, and also offers significantly improved fuel efficiency on many versions thanks to new powertrain options.

The new Ford Focus will go on sale in Europe in the second half of 2014.



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Q Do you drive a car under three years old and think you have to service it at a main dealer to qualify for warranty?

A: We use only genuine manufacturer's parts and stamp your service book to ensure your manufacturer's warranty is upheld.

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Q Are you looking for quality car repairs and servicing with the emphasis on SERVICE?

A: Fastfit Service Centre, Basingstoke, offer FREE local collection and delivery or a FREE game of Pool while you wait.

Q Why not book your car in for ECU Remapping & benefit from better mpg, more torque & more bhp?

A: Call Basingstoke (01256) 321800

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Taking care of your motor

FASTFIT Service Centre is celebrating its tenth anniversary at Unit One, Moniton Trading Estate in West Ham Lane.

And the independent automotive specialist is proud to be expanding in a bid to give its customers exactly what they want. "Everything your car needs is here under one roof", explained manager Byron Lewis who, like his team of experts, has spent a lifetime in the automotive industry.

He added: At Fastfit we offer hourly rates which are some of the best in Basingstoke. No job is beyond us and we are quite simply a one-stop shop and more besides. Whether it's an entire engine overhaul or just tweaking the brakes, we will do it, and do it well."

The business is continually expanding and includes a new mobile tyre fitting and home start service. A comprehensive diagnostic service can also be provided and the business issues many dealer level tools ranging

from Ford, Jaguar to Land Rover and Volkswagen.

Fastfit offers everything from MOTs and minor servicing to major repairs and complex engine work.

More complex issues include an Engine Control Unit (ECU) remapping service which makes the vehicle more responsive and smoother to driver. In these tough time, it also slightly increases the miles-per-gallon!

Fastfit Service Centre also stocks a range of budget or performance tyres and it can also custom build stainless steel exhaust systems.

"Come and give us a try. You won't be disappointed," concluded Byron.



What our customers think

• My car had been taken to three different repair centres which was suffering from low power none of them diagnosed the problem. I took it to these guys for a remap and full exhaust in the hopes it would fix it. It was better but Byron still thought it wasn't right so spent another couple of hours diagnosing it!

He didn't charge me extra and even finished after they should of closed. You just don't get that kind of service these days. Amazing!

Cheers,
Clive Baldwin

• Great service from the whole of the Fast Fit team. They know what they are talking about and are happy to help with any query.

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These guys definitely know what they're talking about and I would recommend them to anyone!

Chris H

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*Terms and exclusions apply. New 4+ package applicable to new retail cars. Warranty 4 years/100,000 miles and routine servicing 4 years/48,000 miles (whichever comes first). Servicing package available to Renault Selections and lease finance customers only; alternatively can be purchased for just £299 (price shown valid when purchased by 31 July 2014). Visit renault.co.uk/4plus for full details. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Limited, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. For finance, conditions apply. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Isle of Man and Channel Islands) to apply for finance. †£1500 offer comprises £500 discount offer and £1000 advance rental contribution. Discount offer is available to private and small business customers on new Renault cars (with the exception of Twizy 2.E.) and is paid directly to the customer by the dealer. Payment can also take the form of a contribution towards a cash purchase or finance. £1000 advance rental contribution is available to Renault Finance customers when taking Renault Finance on a new Renault Clio, Captur, ZOE, Mégane or Scénic (excluding Clio Expression and Renaultsport, ZOE Expression, Mégane Hatch Expression+ and Renaultsport, and Scénic XMOD Expression+). Visit www.renault.co.uk/offers for details. *Rental stated is for Renault Lease. If you choose Renault Lease then you will not own the car. When you have paid the final rental at the end of the contract you can keep using the car and pay an annual rental equivalent to one monthly rental. Typical example: Renault Clio Dynamique MediaNav 1.2 16V 75 including one year's free insurance, advance rental £1700 inc VAT (after £1000 advance rental contribution) followed by 48 monthly rentals of £159 inc VAT, final rental £4735 inc VAT. Renault ZOE rental includes the UK government's plug-in car grant (PiCG), but excludes mandatory battery hire (£70 per month based on 36 months, 7500 miles per annum). A finance facility fee of £149 is payable with the advance rental. **1 year's free insurance is available to Renault Finance customers in the UK (excluding the Isle of Man, Channel Islands and Northern Ireland) on any new Clio Dynamique MediaNav 1.2 16V 75. Visit renault.co.uk/insuranceoffer for full terms and conditions. Offers cannot be used in conjunction with other schemes or finance offers and are available on new cars shown when ordered by 24 March and registered by 31 March 2014. Please check with your local dealer for details. Cars shown may have optional metallic paint, available at an additional £495 (or £595 for i.d. paint), plus £300 for painted roof on Captur.

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@ Table lamps. Very good condition. Both working £20 Tel: 01256 468217

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FOR sale 4ft indoor rabbit cage £5.00 Tel: 01256 972526

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CASIO CTK-710 keyboard 61. Full size keys including stand - boxed £50 ovno Tel: 01256 767367

CONSORT FY600 sewing machine. 16 automatic stitches £50 ovno Tel: 01256 767367

MOUNTFIELD Petrol Mower needs lots of TLC hence £25 ONO Tel: 01256 767367

HIFI and TV until. Dark oak wood 2 glass door cupboard 3ft 6in length 1ft 6in width £30 Tel: 07584 479592

CAT carrier. Never used. Cost £47 sell for £30. No offers. Tel: 07584 479592

ARTIFICIAL advent wreath with fork candle holders. Green and red colours. Needs some TLC hence £1 only. Tel: 01256 356026

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Whitchurch and Tadley secure points

WHITCHURCH United earned their first league point since January, after a 1-1 draw with Folland Sports in the Wessex Premier Division on Tuesday night.

Issac Sedu was on target for the Jam Boys to score the team's first point since a 3-0 victory against Downton on January 11 following numerous postponements.

They remain ninth in the table following Tuesday's game, with 47 points from 27 games.

Elsewhere, Tadley Calvea returned to action in style, as a 2-1 win against Ringwood Town on Saturday was followed by a 2-0 victory away to Andover New Street on Tuesday.

Calvea have jumped to seventh in the Wessex First Division standings as a result with 28 points, four behind next-placed Pewsey Vale.

Despite the recent improvement in weather, Hartley Wintney's game against Camberley Town was called off on Saturday, and they are 15th in the Combined Counties Premier standings.

Wintney will hope to be in action tonight when they host Epsom and Ewell, before making the trip to Mole Valley SCR on Saturday.

Whitchurch travel to Isle of Wight side Newport at the weekend, while Calvea are away to Petersfield Town.

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Sheppard's Herd down Jets twice in successive days

Bison stay top of the league with free-scoring displays

BASINGSTOKE Bison remained top of the English Ice Hockey Premier League after the weekend's matches, following two victories in two days against Slough Jets.

Saturday's match in Basingstoke resulted in a 6-2 win for Bison, with four of their goals coming in the final period.

Miroslav Vantroba opened the scoring for Bison at 11:26, but despite the home side firing 21 shots at Jets netminder Andrej Vasiljevic, it was the only goal of the opening 20 minutes.

The Jets equalised less than two minutes into the second period through Alan Lack, but Bison restored their lead as Ciaran Long buried a penalty shot at 31:51.

But four third-period goals for Bison transformed the game, starting with Joe Rand's effort over Vasiljevic into the net.

Captain Nicky Chinn added another at 46:16, before Jets briefly retaliated as Lack scored his second of the match.

With just over a minute remaining and the score at 4-2, Jets pulled forward Vasiljevic for an extra attacker, but it paved the way for Tomas Karpov to score an open goal at 59:20.

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Then with one second left on the clock, Stuart Mogg grabbed a sixth, assisted by Danny Ingoldsby.

A four-point weekend was completed in Slough on Sunday, as Bison won the match 4-2.

There were no goals in the first period, but Karpov and Aaron Connolly both got on the scoresheet in the second to give Bison a two-goal cushion.

Marek Tvrdek managed to pull one back for the Jets, before player-coach Doug Sheppard restored the visitors' advantage at the second buzzer.

Tvrdek got a second in the third period, but a powerplay goal from Connolly wrapped up the points and a second win in as many days.

After the weekend's games, Bison were level on 70 points with Manchester Phoenix, who were in action against Peterborough Phantoms last night.

Bison were also competing last night, as they lined up to face Milton Keynes Lightning in the first leg of the EPL cup as the Observer went to press.



• Doug Sheppard (Pic: Grant King (5holephotography.co.uk))

Sport Bites

Goodall glory

BASINGSTOKE tennis ace Josh Goodall has won his first tournament of the year, taking the victory at the Aegon British Tour event in Corby.

A comfortable 6-2, 6-3 win against Buckinghamshire's Toby Martin gave Goodall the win in the final, which was played on February 22.

The number one seed was given a bye in the first round, and beat Chris Morrow, Joe Woolley, Alexis Canter and Robbie Ridout on his way to the final.

Joy for Joyce!

YOUNG snooker star Mickey Joyce has reached the last 16 of the England Under-14 Snooker Championship, to be played in Leeds on April 12.

Ten-year-old Mickey, from Winklebury, came second in his group at the Southern Qualifier event in Swindon.

It comes after Mickey completed his first half-century break in January, scoring a 54 in the Eastleigh and District Under-18 League.

Cricket fixtures

BASINGSTOKE and North Hants Cricket Club have been given a home tie in their opening fixture of this year's Southern Electric twenty20 Cup, and are set to face Fair Oak.

Hartley Wintney will host New Milton, while Hook and Newnham Basics make the trip to Havant.

The first round games take place on June 8, with the final at the Ageas Bowl on August 15.

Basingstoke are looking over their shoulders after latest setback

BASINGSTOKE RFC are now just four points above the relegation zone in the National League 3 London and South East, after they lost 29-14 away to Hertford on Saturday.

It took 15 minutes for Hertford to break the deadlock, with

Jack Culverhouse scoring a try before Shaun Brown added another five minutes later, with Stuart Smart getting the conversion on the second.

'Stoke responded as Freddie Gleadowe scored a try of his own, with David Byett convert-

ing to make the scores 12-7. But Michael Sargent was able to extend Hertford's lead again, as he went over just before the break.

It would take nearly half an hour before any more scoring after half-time, as a converted

Jack Mann try put Hertford 24-7 ahead.

With two minutes left, 'Stoke were able to reduce the arrears as they were awarded a penalty try, converted by Byett.

But Mann found time to add another unconverted try to

Hertford's total, for a final score of 29-14.

Eleventh-placed 'Stoke are now just four points ahead of Barnes, and seven behind CS Rugby in 10th. They next host basement club Barking on Saturday.



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Inside: Sheppard's Herd down Jets twice in successive days | Whitchurch and Tadley secure points | Joy for Joyce!

DRAGONS SEAL CUP FINAL SPOT

Bristow hails his players after last minute Matthews goal sinks Boro

JASON Bristow praised the professionalism of his players after their Hampshire Cup semi-final victory over Gosport Borough on Tuesday.

Robbie Matthews was the hero for the Dragons as his last-minute winner secured a 3-2 victory for Bristow's team.

Simon Dunn's fine curling effort and a Jordace Holder-Spooner penalty had Basingstoke comfortably 2-0 up at half-time.

However, their hosts rallied, and Rory Williams struck twice in nine second half minutes to set up a nervy final quarter of the game.

But the Dragons held their nerve and will now take on Havant and Waterlooville in the final at Portsmouth's Fratton Park.

"We just about deserved in the end!" said a relieved Bristow. "At 2-0, you would expect us to go on

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

and win, but credit to Gosport, they didn't lie down.

"It's a cup match, there's nothing to lose and they threw everything at us in the second half."

"But credit to us as well - we responded in a positive way, and I think we were in control in the last 20 minutes even though they'd equalised."

Basingstoke drew 2-2 at the Camrose against Maidenhead on Saturday, having thrown away a two-goal lead, but that lightning, despite threatening, failed to strike twice in four days.

"There's a good camaraderie among the lads," added the Dragons' boss. "I don't think the setback on Saturday would have affected them too much."

"They're good professionals, and go out in the next game and deal with what we have to deal with."

"And we had to deal with a good Gosport side coming at us in the second half."

The Hampshire Cup final, 'Stoke's first in six years, is the culmination of a very solid campaign in the trophy by Bristow's team.

"We've always said from day one that we want to go and win it," he said. "It's important for the players, supporters and the officials of the club to be involved in."

"We've been strong in every round. There's been a few games that have come at good times for us when we've been stronger in the league."

"Credit to the players for getting the result and getting us to the final. But we have to put that behind us for now and get back to the league."

In the league, Basingstoke face a trip to Farnborough tonight, without skipper Wes Daly (knee) and Shaun McAuley (ribs). Neil Barrett (hamstring) is also a doubt.



Basingstoke's players celebrate Simon Dunn's goal against Gosport (Picture: Les Chase)

Gosport Borough 2
Basingstoke Town 3

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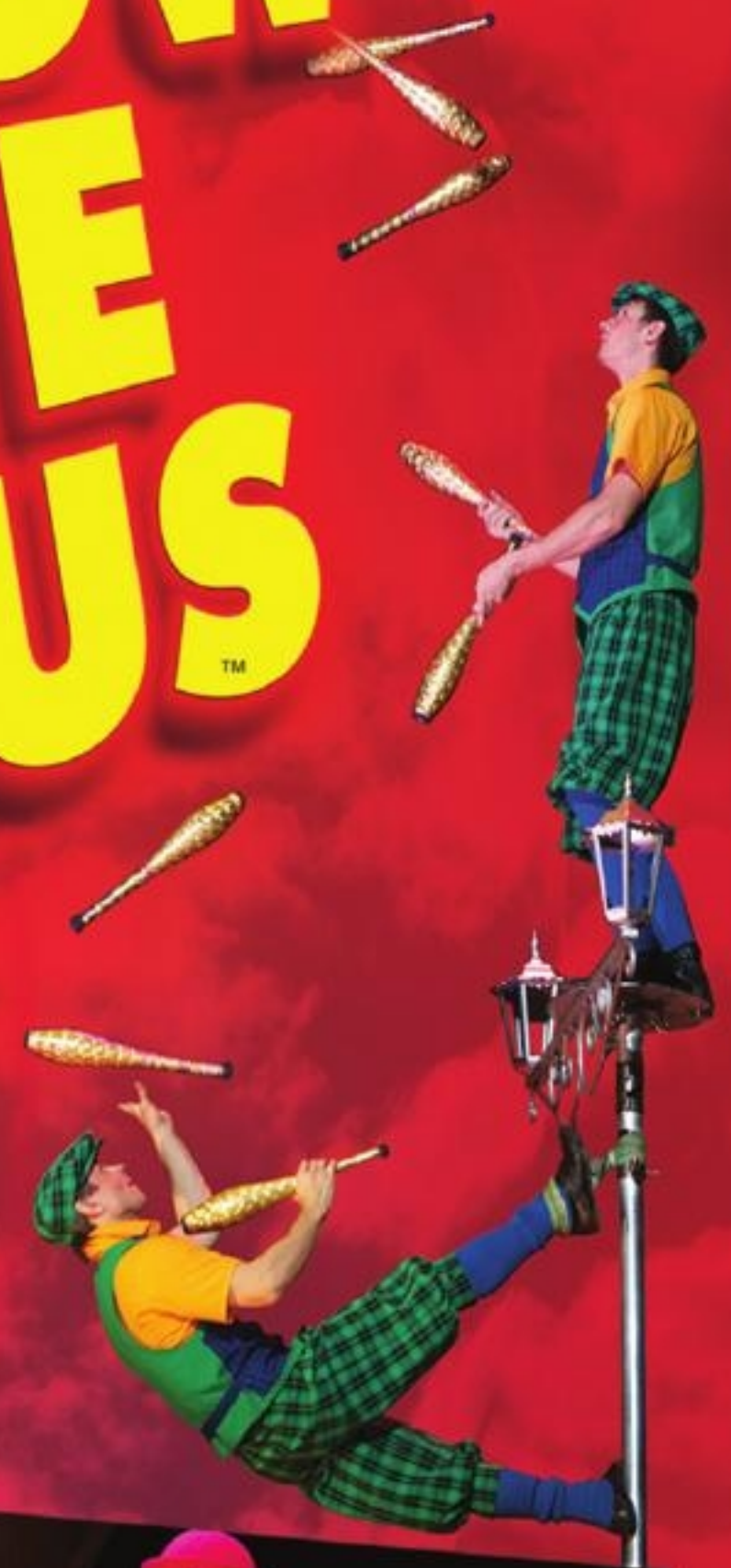


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